

ISSN 1467-4785

Volume 2(2)
September 2001

Contents

Editorial <i>Craig Roberts (UK)</i>	44
Fantasy Proneness and other Psychological Correlates of UFO Experience <i>Kathryn Gow, Janine Lurie, Stuart Coppin, Ari Popper, Anthony Powell, Keith Basterfield (Australia)</i>	45
New UFO Cases, Statistics Update and a Few Thoughts <i>Hannes la Rue (Germany: MUFON)</i>	67
Flying Saucers: Behind the Cold War Veil of Military Intelligence <i>Michael Hall with Wendy Connors (USA)</i>	69
A Close Encounter of the Third Kind in Romania <i>Dan Farças (Romania)</i>	88

Price:

UK £4.75
Europe £5.75

**European Journal of UFO and
Abduction Studies**

**EJUFOAS is the journal of the
Totton Researchers of ufology
Theory and History (TRUTH), and
is an objective publication,
primarily for the European
ufological Community.**

Editor-in-chief.

Craig Roberts B.Sc (Hons)

*TRUTH, UFO Studies, Department of
Psychology, Totton College, Water
Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3ZX,
United Kingdom.*

E-mail: ejufos@totton.ac.uk

Editorial Board.

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos,
Fundacion Anomalia, Spain.

David Clarke Ph.D, *United Kingdom.*

Dan Farças Ph.D, *Association for the
Study of Unidentified Aerspacial
Phenomena (ASFAN), Romania*

Joaquim Fernandes MA, *University
of Fernando Pessoa, Porto, Portugal.*

Pyotr Kutniuk PH.D, *Research
Institute on Anomalous Phenomena
(RIAP), The Ukraine.*

Yuri E. Lozotsev Ph.D, *Russian State
Open University of Railway
Transportation, Russia.*

Perry Petrakis, SOS OVNI, France.

Edoardo RussoMA, *Centro Italiani
Studi ufologici (CISU), Italy.*

Massimo Teodorani Ph.D, Italy.

Paolo Toselli, Italy.

Maurizio Verga, Italy.

Associate Editors.

Peter Schofield, *Administrative
assistant to editor-in-chief.*

Javier Garcia-Frutos, *Typesetting,
translation of abstracts to Spanish.*

Derek Pavely, *Typesetting, proof
reading.*

Julia Russell Ph.D, *Proof reading.*

Helen Shaw B.Eng (Hons),

Typesetting, proof reading.

Spencer Farmer, *Logo, graphics.*

Associate Reviewers.

Matthew Jarvis C.Psychol,

Psychodynamic issues in ufology.

John Roberts Ph.D, *Physics.*

Helen Shaw B.Eng (Hons), Physics.

Aims and Scope.

The European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies (EJUFOAS) is the journal of TRUTH (Totton Researchers of ufology Theory and History), based in Southampton, United Kingdom. The purpose of EJUFOAS is to circulate ideas and contemporary issues related to ufology (UFO's and the alien abduction phenomena). The primary focus is on European ufological issues and debate but non-European paper may be accepted (limited to one per issue). It hopes to foster much needed development in the field of ufology by publishing diverse papers on, Historical Perspectives, Theoretical Perspectives, Empirical Research, and European Issues involved in this field. Any appropriate paper will be blind reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board and it is usual that the review process takes 4-6 weeks. Regular issues will include *Forum Debate Articles* usually solicited by the editor-in-chief covering a controversial topic in ufology with the opportunity for peer commentary in subsequent volumes, and *Special Editions* that will focus on one area of this diverse field. Finally, it is hoped that this publication will be ground-breaking and bring the European ufological Community closer by allowing publication of reviewed papers that will generate debate and move the World ufological Community forward through innovative and contemporary discussion.

Editorial

Welcome to the 5th edition of EJUFOAS. This venture has now been around for three years and we are still going strong and publishing high quality material. I'm very happy to introduce this issue as, to me, it is a milestone for the journal as we are publishing our first non-European papers. Not just one paper, but **two**! This indicates that the coverage of EJUFOAS is spreading beyond Europe and this is entirely due to the Editorial Board and our avid readers. Again, I cannot thank all those involved in EJUFOAS for their 100% commitment to the publication.

We have a very intriguing paper from Australia that examines the psychological profile of UFO experiencers. This has always been the main interest for me and I hope you enjoy the paper as much as I did (I've had the advantage of having the paper for about 5 months already!). Our second non-European paper comes from the United States of America. It focuses on the Cold War and 'Flying Saucers' and what is published in this part-volume is there to whet your appetite as it is only the first half of the paper. The second half will be published in Volume 3(1) due to be published in March 2002.

Our two European papers are from MUFON (Central Europe: Germany) reporting that there has *not* been a decrease in sightings reported to them (there was a great deal of coverage in the UK about how a UFO Reporting Group had closed due to 'no sightings') and from Romania: a case study that gives intriguing reading.

Finally, my first true book has been published (Angles on Psychological Research: Nelson Thornes) and it does feature papers originally published in EJUFOAS. I hope it helps to expand our readership.

You may wish to go to www.ufoinfo.com where you will find all of the abstracts from issues of EJUFOAS translated into Spanish by Javier Garcia Frutos.

If your subscription has expired, please re-subscribe with the offer of 10% off your renewal. Tick the correct box on your subscription form. The offer expires December 1st 2001, so renew quickly.

I end with the inevitable call for papers. We want to publish high quality work from many sources. So, if you know of any work that should appear in EJUFOAS, please encourage the authors to send them to the EJUFOAS Editorial Office. I look forward to many more submissions to EJUFOAS.

FANTASY PRONENESS AND OTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF UFO EXPERIENCE

**Kathryn Gow, Janine Lurie, Stuart Coppin, Ari Popper, Anthony
Powell and Keith Basterfield**

Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

*PO Box 268, RED HILL
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4059
Phone: (617) 3864 4525
Fax: (617) 3864 4771
E-mail: k.gow@qut.edu.au*

Abstract. This study examined the psychological variables that underpin the reporting of UFO (unidentified flying objects) experiences of 198 subjects (155 controls, 19 UFO sightees, 12 UFO contactees, and 12 UFO abductees). Findings demonstrate that reporting of UFO experiences is related to heightened levels of fantasy proneness and paranormal belief and that the relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experiences is mediated by paranormal belief. In relation to personality characteristics, it was found that UFO experiencers are higher on the "feeling" and "intuiting" dimensions of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). However contrary to our expectations, beliefs in "precognition" were not found to correlate with the "feeling" dimension of the MBTI. The findings provide impetus for future research with UFO experiencers.

Reports of unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings and certainty that such objects are alien spacecraft have increased dramatically following Kenneth Arnold's highly publicised sighting in Washington on June 24, 1947 (Bartholomew, Basterfield & Howard, 1991; Klass, 1999; Price, 1997; Spanos, Burgess & Burgess, 1994; Spanos, Cross, Dickson & DuBreuil, 1993). The first UFO reports focused solely on alleged sightings of the spacecrafts themselves; however, by the mid-1960's, UFO abduction accounts began to appear (Spanos et al., 1994). In his review article, Appelle (1996) defines an abduction experience as being characterised by "subjectively real memories of being taken secretly and/or against one's will by apparently nonhuman entities and subjected to complex physical and psychological procedures" (p. 29).

The mass media has given extensive coverage to such accounts (McLeod, Corbisier & Mack, 1996; Zimmer, 1984). In addition, uncritical and sensationalistic documentary-type television shows (such as those screened to coincide with the anniversary of the Roswell incident) and movies that feature alien contact have become increasingly popular (Sheaffer, 1986), for example, *The X-Files*, *Men in Black*, *Independence Day*, *Dark Skies* and *ET*. However while popular culture moves forward in

assimilating the possibility of intelligent alien life into mass public opinion, there is still a lack of scientific evidence as to its presence here on earth (Sheaffer, 1986; Spanos et al., 1993). According to Westerfelhaus and Combs (1998), the success of X-files is due to the tension it portrays between skeptical western science and faith in things that western science ignores.

Because of the scientific community's dismissal of the existence of intelligent alien life, UFO experiences have received scant serious scientific attention (McLeod et al., 1996). Regardless of whether these reports are independently verifiable, at least two percent of the population (Appelle, 1996) in the USA claim to have had a UFO experience and this fact alone makes them worthy of study. Bullard (1990, cited in Ring & Rosing, 1990) lamented that we still know too little of the psychological makeup of those who have undergone these "puzzling encounters".

Although, at this stage, abduction reports cannot be taken seriously as objective reality (although some researchers do this; see Jacobs, 1992; Mack, 1994), it is obvious that to the experiencer they certainly represent subjective reality. The processes and/or personal characteristics of claimants which lead them to believe in their experiences have been left largely uninvestigated by objective scientific research.

Profile of a UFO Experiencer

Some scientists have dismissed UFO reports as evidence of a disturbed personality or some sort of mental instability (Zimmer, 1984). The profile of those who claim contact with aliens or even UFO sightings is often described as one of lunacy (Grinspoon & Persky, 1972, cited in Spanos et al., 1993; Newman & Baumeister, 1996). However such diagnoses are often based on the fantastic nature of the claims, and not on firsthand psychological evaluation (Bartholomew, Basterfield & Howard, 1991). The hypothesis that a claim of UFO abduction must be associated with psychopathology has not been supported by the research (e.g., Bloecher, Clamar & Hopkins, 1985 cited in Ring & Rosing, 1990; Parnell, 1988).

Bloecher, Clamar and Hopkins found no evidence of serious psychopathology in their sample of nine reported abductees who were administered a battery of objective and projective tests by a psychologist "blind" to their abductee status. In a study with a much larger sample size, Parnell (1988) also found no evidence of psychopathology, as measured by the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16PF). Zimmer (1984) found no differences between his UFO experience group and control group on measures of cultural alienation, malevolent world view and personal well-being.

UFO experience reports cannot therefore be dismissed as delusions of the mentally ill (Banaji & Kihlstrom, 1996). However, although studies find no overall pattern of pathology, some suggest an association between schizoid tendencies and UFO experience (e.g., Parnell & Sprinkle, 1990, Schwarz, 1983, cited in Ring & Rosing, 1990). Certain subjects in Parnell and Sprinkle's sample scored higher than average on the MMPI subscale which assessed their schizophrenic tendency.

Appelle (1996) stated that the only claim that can be made with any credibility is that "as a group the experienter population is clinically normal, but atypical in (some) ways" (p. 64). The available data is not suggestive of any psychological disorders associated with UFO experience, but may be consistent with certain personality traits (Appelle, 1996).

Ring and Rosing (1990) suggested that because of mainstream attempts to "pigeon hole" UFO experiencers in terms of the presence or absence of underlying pathology, more specific psychological characteristics, such as fantasy proneness, that may be true indicators of predisposition to such reports have been largely overlooked.

Fantasy Proneness and UFO Experience

The concept of fantasy proneness was first introduced by Wilson and Barber (1981, cited in Fellows & Wright, 1989) to describe the extensive and vivid imaginative experiences reported by a group of highly hypnotisable female subjects during in-depth interviews. The fantasy prone personality has been summarised in the literature as having: a deep and extensive involvement in fantasy, the ability to vividly relive past experiences, out-of-body experiences, healing abilities, the ability to achieve orgasm by fantasising, having imaginary friends in childhood and having spent much of their waking life in fantasy (Fellows & Wright, 1989; Siuta, 1990). Wilson and Barber (1983) developed the Inventory of Childhood Memories and Imaginings (ICMI) as a measure of fantasy proneness. The ICMI is used by the majority of research on fantasy proneness. It has been suggested that given the tendency of fantasy prone persons to have problems with fantasy-reality differentiation (Rauschenberger & Lynn, 1995; Rhue & Lynn, 1989) they may be especially vulnerable to fantasise UFO experience (Newman & Baumeister, 1996). Appelle (1996) states that fantasy proneness is theoretically relevant to UFO experience, since there are similarities between abduction experiences and those of fantasisers. The nature of the fantasy prone person's imagery has been described by Wilson and Barber (1981, cited in Appelle, 1996) as feeling as if they are seeing something that really exists out there, or that they are looking into another dimension.

Attempts have been made to categorise UFO experiencers as fantasy prone. However, many researchers claiming a link between fantasy proneness and UFO experience cite fairly tenuous evidence. For example, fantasy proneness and UFO experience have both been linked to hypnotisability, and child sexual abuse. Thus it is argued that, because both phenomena share a common relationship with another variable, they may also be linked directly to each other (e.g., Newman & Baumeister, 1996). These assertions are not backed up with evidence of a direct link.

Bartholomew, Basterfield and Howard (1991) claimed to have found an association between fantasy proneness and UFO experience in their examination of 152 archival cases. The strength of this claim is weak, given the nature of their study and their failure to use a comparison group or a validated measure of fantasy proneness. Studies utilising the validated ICMI have found no significant relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience.

Appelle (1996) found no evidence of a direct link between fantasy

proneness and UFO experience in his review of articles assessing the possible relationship. Spanos et al. (1993) found no significant difference between the control group and UFO experience groups (both sightees and more intense experiencers such as contactees and abductees) on ICMI scores. Similar results were found by Ring and Rosing (1990) using a composite measure of fantasy proneness. There is evidence to suggest that fantasy proneness relates to UFO experience in a less direct way.

This study asks if people who claim to have had a UFO experience are more fantasy prone than the normal population? Additionally, Spanos et al. (1993) suggests that fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs interact in their relationship to UFO experience.

Paranormal Beliefs and UFO Experience

That people who report UFO experiences tend to believe in the existence of alien life is somewhat an obvious statement. Closer examination uncovers the fact that there is evidence of a mediating relationship between fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs, with respect to UFO experience. Spanos et al. (1993) found that, among subjects who believed in the existence of intelligent alien life, those high in fantasy proneness were more likely to report UFO experience. Spanos et al. (1994) suggest this may be explained in terms of fantasy prone persons interpreting their sensory and imaginal experiences within a framework of belief in alien visitation.

Examination of Spanos et al.'s (1993) paranormal belief measure reveals some problematic issues. One of the three questions used to assess belief in UFOs actually assesses UFO experience rather than belief ("I have been taken aboard a spaceship"). Since the scores for the three questions were summed as a measure of belief, this measure is contaminated by this confound. Reassessing this proposed mediation relationship with the use of a validated paranormal belief measure is considered to be a worthwhile research endeavour which has been taken up in this study.

There is evidence which suggests that there is an association between fantasy proneness and general paranormal beliefs. Irwin (1990) found that scores on the ICMI were correlated ($.53, p < .01$) with full scale scores on the revised version of the Paranormal Belief Scale (PBS) (Tobacyk, 1988, in Irwin, 1990)), as well as all the subscales (traditional religious belief, psi belief, witchcraft, superstition, spiritualism, extraordinary life forms and precognition). Using a different paranormal belief scale, Council and Huff (1990) also found a relationship between fantasy proneness and paranormal belief with significant differences between high, medium and low fantasisers (high = ICMI score > 35 , medium = $11-35$, low = < 11). It was found that high fantasisers were not only more likely to hold paranormal beliefs, but were also more likely to report paranormal experiences.

Belief in other paranormal phenomenon has been shown to be higher in UFO experiencers when compared to controls. Zimmer (1984) found that belief in the occult was related to UFO sightings, while belief in astrology was not. Spanos et al. (1993) found that UFO experiencers scored higher than controls on esoteric and exotic belief measures which

assessed belief in phenomena such as mind reading and reincarnation. In addition, Ring and Rosing (1990) found that UFO experiencers were significantly higher in spiritual beliefs than controls were.

Paranormal beliefs have been found to be associated with certain personality characteristics as measured by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (Myers, 1962, cited in Murphy & Lester, 1976). In particular, belief in ESP (defined as telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition) was found to be significantly correlated with the "feeling", rather than the "thinking" dimension of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (Murphy & Lester, 1976). This correlation suggests that there is a relationship between paranormal beliefs and certain personality characteristics.

Personality Characteristics and UFO Experience

Unfortunately, there is a gap in current knowledge in UFO research with respect to whether a specific personality characteristic is over-represented in the UFO experience population. Personality measures used in the literature so far have been utilised for their ability to uncover psychopathology, but not aspects of personality per se.

Given the nature of paranormal belief's role in differentiating UFO experiencers from controls, in addition to its relationship with the feeling dimension of the Myers-Briggs, it is possible that personality characteristics may shed more light on the profile of UFO experiencers.

Rationale of this Study

The aim of this study is to assist in clarifying the profile of a UFO experiencer. Specifically it is hypothesised that:

1. The relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience will be mediated by paranormal beliefs. That is, a significant relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience will no longer be significant, if paranormal belief is controlled for. As necessary conditions of this mediation relationship, it is expected that:

2. High scores on a fantasy proneness measure and high scores on a paranormal belief measure will be significantly correlated.

3. Subjects who identify as UFO experiencers will score higher on a paranormal belief measure than control subjects.

4. Consistent with Murphy and Lester's (1976) findings, high scores on the feeling dimension of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator will correlate with high scores on the precognition subscale (which includes belief in ESP) of the paranormal beliefs measure.

In addition, an exploration of the relationship between personality dimensions and UFO experience, fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs will be undertaken.

Method

Design

This study was conducted as a between-subjects design. Subjects were assigned to groups on the basis of their categorisation as either a UFO sightee, contactee, abductee or non-experiencer (control). Subjects were assessed on the six dependent variables of fantasy proneness, paranormal beliefs and personality characteristics.

Subjects

The researchers door-knocked in the suburbs of a capital city of Australia (selected on the basis of their representativeness from statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics). In addition, questionnaires were sent to subjects contacted through an Australia-wide UFO organisation.

Out of 450 questionnaires distributed, 198 people completed the questionnaire. Of these, 119 were female (Age distribution: 18-20 = 4%, 21-30 = 39%, 31-40 = 20%, 41-50 = 15%, 51-60 = 12%, over 60 = 10%) and 79 were male (Age distribution: 18-20 = 13%, 21-30 = 29%, 31-40 = 23%, 41-50 = 16%, 51-60 = 9%, over 60 = 10%). Education levels were distributed fairly evenly (Education distribution: high school = 40%, TAFE = 4%, university = 34%, post-graduate study = 16%, advanced degree = 6%). A wide range of employment status was also found (Occupation distribution: unemployed = 13%, manual workers = 5%, service workers = 20%, professionals = 29%, housewives = 10%, students = 21%, part-time workers = 15%, self-employed = 1%). Religious upbringing and affiliation were also fairly representative (Religious upbringing: atheist = 9%, no organised religion = 10%, Christian = 79%, Jewish = 0.8%, Muslim = 1%, Buddhist = 0.2%; Current religious affiliation: atheist = 16%, no organised religion = 49%, Christian = 32%, Muslim = 1%, Buddhist = 2%).

In total, 155 subjects identified themselves as having had no UFO experience (63 males, 92 females), 19 identified themselves as sightees (6 males, 13 females), 12 identified themselves as contactees (5 males, 7 females) and 12 identified themselves as abductees (5 males, 7 females).

Materials

A booklet comprising a biodata questionnaire, the Inventory of Childhood Memory and Imaginings (ICMI), the Paranormal Belief Scale (PBS) and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (Form G), and three questions to ascertain UFO experiences was compiled by the research team. Information pertaining to age, gender, education level, occupation, religious upbringing and current religious beliefs were obtained via the biodata questionnaire.

~~Inventory of Childhood Memories and Imaginings (ICMI).~~ The ICMI, developed by Wilson and Barber (1983), is a 52-item true-false measure used to assess fantasy proneness. It has been found to have a reliability of .89 and significant correlations with other scales measuring imaginative

ability attest to its validity (Silva & Kirsch, 1992).

Paranormal Belief Scale (PBS). Tobacyk and Milford's (1983) PBS was used to assess subjects' belief in the paranormal. The PBS is a 25-item 5-point likert scale measure (with scores ranging from 5 = strongly agree to 1 = strongly disagree). Questions 21 and 23 are negatively worded and thus need recoding. Its seven subscales are Traditional Religious Belief, Psi Belief, Witchcraft, Superstition, Spiritualism, Extraordinary Life Forms, and Precognition. Scores for the subscales are derived from the mean of responses to items within the subscale. A total paranormal belief score is obtained by summing responses for all 25 items. Test-retest reliability for this scale was found to be .89 (Tobacyk & Milford, 1983). Construct validity was determined by correlations with seven related scales and was found to be at an acceptable level (Tobacyk & Milford, 1983).

Myers-Briggs. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (Myers, 1962) is a measure of personality style based on Jung's theory of personality. In this study, Form G was used. The four continuums are Introversion-Extroversion, Intuiting-Sensing, Thinking-Feeling and Perceiving-Judging. Subjects rate 32 dichotomous items proportionally out of an allocation of ten. A total score for each of the four dimensions is derived with scores for opposing dimensions summing to eighty. In a review article summarising the use of the Myers-Briggs to 1990, Murray (1990), found that the Myers-Briggs was adequately reliable and valid.

UFO Experience. Three questions ascertaining the presence of UFO experiences were derived from Basterfield (1997) and Spanos et al. (1993). These questions required subjects to respond if they classified themselves as having had a UFO sighting, or contact, or had been abducted. Basterfield's (1997, unpublished manuscript) definitions of "abduction" and "contact" were used and the definition of "sighting" was derived from Spanos et al. (1993).

Procedure

The questionnaire booklets used in this study were arranged in a latin square design in an attempt to counteract sequencing confounds.

Over a four week period, householders in the aforementioned suburbs were approached by two members of the research team on varying days and times. The researchers explained that they were conducting research in the area and inquired if there were any occupants over 18 who would agree to participate. Once willingness to participate was established, the householder was handed the number of questionnaire booklets indicated, as well as consent forms.

If questionnaires were unavailable for collection on the collection date - a week later- a note requesting the questionnaire be left out for collection the next day was left in the household mail delivery box.

Subjects in the UFO organisation were approached as to their willingness to participate. Once consent was obtained, the questionnaire

and consent form were mailed to the subject.

Results

Establishing conditions for the mediation relationship

The first analyses were conducted in order to assess the necessary conditions for the hypothesised mediation effect between fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs on UFO experience.

ICMI and UFO Category

The first step in establishing the mediation relationship between fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs was to show that fantasy proneness differs significantly across the three UFO categories and the controls. To assess this, a one-way ANOVA was conducted. It was found that this condition was met ($F(3, 197) = 8.53, p < .001$). Post-hoc Student-Newman-Keuls analysis revealed that all UFO experience groups (sightees ($M = 26.89$), contactees ($M = 30.50$), and abductees ($M = 30$) were significantly higher on ICMI scores than controls ($M = 21.90$).

PBS and ICMI

Next it was necessary to establish a relationship between fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs. Correlations between scores on the ICMI and the PBS total scale score and subscale scores were as follows; total paranormal belief score ($r(198) = .44, p < .001$), traditional religious belief ($r(198) = -.01$, not significant), psi belief ($r(198) = .40, p < .001$), witchcraft ($r(198) = .34, p < .001$), superstition ($r(198) = .15, p < .05$), spiritualism ($r(198) = .47, p < .001$), extraordinary lifeforms ($r(198) = .28, p < .001$), and precognition ($r(198) = .41, p < .001$).

PBS and UFO Experience

The next step was to establish a relationship between UFO experience and paranormal beliefs was the next step. The means and standard deviations of the three UFO experience categories' (and control group's) scores on the PBS including total scores and subscales are presented in Table 1. Eight one-way ANOVAs were conducted to ascertain if there were any significant differences between the groups on paranormal beliefs. Significant differences are marked in Table 1.

Table 1

Means and Standard Deviations of PBS Scores (total and subscales)

Variable	UFO Experience Category			
	Controls	Sightees	Contactees	Abductees
PBSTRB	3.35 (0.98)	3.66 (0.86)	3.81 (0.74)	3.75 (0.50)
PBSPSI*	3.12 (0.93)	3.67 (0.94)	3.25 (1.01)	4.02 (0.78)
PBSWIT**	2.97 (0.86)	3.33 (0.92)	3.08 (0.82)	4.06 (0.51)
PBSSUP	1.84 (0.75)	2.12 (0.71)	1.86 (0.90)	2.41 (1.17)
PBSSPI**	3.07 (1.01)	3.78 (0.79)	3.63 (1.12)	4.56 (0.53)
PBSELF*	2.47 (0.80)	2.81 (1.03)	2.47 (0.69)	3.36 (0.63)
PBSPRE*	3.61 (0.91)	3.89 (0.81)	4.22 (0.48)	4.39 (0.62)
TOTPBS*	73.81 (14.61)	84.21 (14.42)	80.75 (12.12)	96.08 (10.45)

Note. PBSTRB = Traditional Religious Belief, PBSPSI = Psi Belief, PBSWIT = Witchcraft, PBSSUP = Superstition, PBSSPI = Spiritualism, PBSELF = Extraordinary Lifeforms, PBSPRE = Precognition, TOTPBS = Total Paranormal Belief.

* $p < .01$, ** $p < .001$.

There was a significant difference between the groups on total paranormal belief ($F(3, 197) = 5.12, p < .01$). Post-hoc Student-Newman-Keuls analysis revealed that, on overall paranormal belief, sightees and abductees were significantly higher than controls, and abductees were significantly higher than sightees and contactees. Traditional religious belief was not significant. Psi belief was significantly higher in sightees and abductees than in controls ($F(3, 197) = 5.09, p < .01$). Witchcraft belief was significantly higher in abductees than controls, sightees and

contactees ($E(6.85, p < .001)$). Superstition was not significant. Spiritualism was higher in sightees compared to controls, and higher in abductees compared to controls and sightees ($E(3, 197) = 11.45, p < .001$). Belief in extraordinary lifeforms was higher in abductees than controls and contactees ($E(3, 197) = 5.12, p < .01$). Precognition belief was higher in abductees compared to controls ($E(3, 197) = 4.84, p < .01$).

PBS and ICMI - A mediated relationship?

To assess the hypothesis that the effect of fantasy proneness was mediated by paranormal belief, it was necessary to prove the conditions of a mediated relationship: firstly, that fantasy proneness and UFO experience are related, as has been shown; secondly, that fantasy proneness and total paranormal belief are related, as shown in the reported correlations; and thirdly, that total paranormal beliefs differ significantly over UFO categories, as shown in the one-way ANOVAs reported above.

The final step was to show that once paranormal beliefs are controlled for, the previously significant relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience would no longer be significant. The results of an ANCOVA conducted to assess this condition are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Results of ANCOVA for Fantasy Proneness and UFO Experience with Total Paranormal Beliefs as the Covariate

Source Variation	of df	MS	F
Covariate			
TOTPBS	1	13.77	21.85*
Main Effects			
FPLOMEHI	2	0.95	1.51
Explained	3	7.06	11.218
Residual	194	0.63	
Total	197	0.73	

Note. TOTPBS = Total Paranormal Belief score, FPLOMEHI = ICMI scores separated into low (<11), medium (11-35), and high (36 and over).

* $p < .001$.

As can be seen, once paranormal belief was controlled for, fantasy proneness was no longer significant. Thus, as hypothesised, paranormal belief mediates the relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience.

Feeling Dimension of the Myers-Briggs and Precognition

Following on from the findings of Murphy and Lester (1976), a correlation between the feeling dimension of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the precognition subscale of the PBS was calculated. A Pearson product-moment correlation of $r(198) = .20$ ($p < .05$) was found, however, when UFO experiencers were removed from the analysis, the correlation was no longer significant ($r(155) = .09$, not significant). Feeling and precognition correlated at $r(43) = .44$ ($p < .01$) for the UFO experience categories combined.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

All the dimensions of the Myers-Briggs were analysed next. The means and standard deviations of each of the groups on the eight dimensions of the Myers-Briggs are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Means and Standard Deviations on the dimensions of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

Dimension	UFO Experience Category			
	Controls	Sightees	Contactees	Abductees
Introversion	43.23 (9.06)	41.32 (8.89)	44.42 (6.05)	46.08 (8.45)
Extroversion	36.76 (9.06)	36.68 (8.89)	35.58 (6.05)	33.92 (8.45)
Intuiting*	39.66 (10.08)	44.05 (9.22)	47.08 (9.90)	41.83 (10.54)
Sensing*	40.27 (10.19)	35.95 (9.22)	32.92 (9.90)	38.17 (10.54)
Thinking*	37.27 (9.68)	32.68 (11.15)	34.25 (11.64)	26.92 (7.48)
Feeling*	42.66 (9.68)	47.32 (11.15)	45.75 (11.64)	53.08 (7.48)
Perceiving	38.32 (10.09)	38.84 (6.09)	43.42 (10.20)	42.50 (11.54)
Judging	41.68 (10.09)	41.16 (6.09)	36.58 (10.20)	37.50 (11.54)

* $p < .05$.

Eight one-way ANOVAs were conducted to see if the groups differed significantly on any of these personality dimensions. Significant

differences are marked in Table 3. Introversion-Extroversion, and Perception-Judgement did not significantly differentiate the groups.

A significant omnibus F was found for feeling ($E(3, 197) = 5.21, p < .05$) and thus also thinking ($E(3, 197) = 5.11, p < .05$). Post hoc Student-Newman-Keuls analysis revealed that abductees were significantly higher than controls on the feeling dimension and thus by default significantly lower on the thinking dimension.

A significant omnibus F was also found for intuiting ($E(3, 197) = 2.93, p < .05$) and also sensing ($E(3, 197) = 2.81, p < .05$) with no significant post-hoc Student-Newman-Keuls results.

However when the analysis was conducted again with all the UFO experiencers grouped together (sightees, contactees and abductees), it was found that experiencers ($M = 44.28$) were significantly higher than controls ($M = 39.66$) on intuiting ($E(1, 197) = 7.15, p < .05$) and thus also lower ($M = 35.72$) than controls ($M = 40.27$) on sensing ($E(1, 197) = 6.83, p < .05$).

The relationships between the dimensions of the Myers Briggs and scores on the ICMI and PBS were assessed next. High correlations between any of the dimensions and the ICMI and the PBS and its subscales were picked out for assessment of possible interaction effects. The results of these exploratory analyses are presented next.

Myers-Briggs, PBS and ICMI.

A correlation matrix between the Myers-Briggs dimensions and fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs is presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Correlations between Myers-Briggs Dimensions and ICMI and PBS (total and subscales)

Scale	ICMI	TOT	TRB	PSI	WIT	SUP	SPI	ELF	PRE
Intuiting	.45***	.27***	-.05	.24**	.27***	.12	.31***	.09	.22**
Sensing	-.45***	-.27***	.05	-.24**	-.27***	-.12	-.31***	-.09	-.22**
Thinking	-.26***	-.24**	-.10	-.17*	-.25***	-.09	-.23**	-.05	-.19**
Feeling	.26***	.24**	.10	.17*	.25***	.09	.23**	.05	.19**
Perceiving	.16*	.07	-.07	-.01	.09	.13	.16*	-.08	.11
Judging	-.16*	-.07	.07	.01	-.09	-.13	-.16*	.08	-.11
Introversion	-.03	-.10	-.04	-.08	-.10	.02	-.08	.04	-.12
Extroversion	.03	.10	.04	.08	.10	.02	.08	-.04	.12

Note. TOT = Total Paranormal Belief, TRB = Traditional Religious Belief, PSI = Psi Belief, WIT = Witchcraft, SUP = Superstition, SPI = Spiritualism, ELF = Extraordinary Lifeforms, PRE = Precognition.

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

The Intuiting-Sensing and Thinking-Feeling dimensions significantly correlated with the ICMI score, and with the total paranormal belief score, as well as with the subscales of psi belief, witchcraft, spiritualism, extraordinary lifeforms and precognition.

Interaction between Intuition and ICMI.

After examination of the above correlation matrix, it was decided to conduct several factorial ANOVAs in an exploratory attempt to check for interaction effects between these dimensions and the ICMI. The Intuiting-Sensing and Thinking-Feeling dimensions were chosen as they were highly significant in their correlations with the ICMI. For analyses of interactions with the ICMI, subjects classified as low were removed, as they contributed three empty cells to the design. This resulted in the removal of 10 control subjects. A weak, but just significant interaction effect between ICMI and UFO experience on intuition ($F(3, 188) = 2.40$, $p < .1$ (.069)) and thus also sensing ($F(3, 188) = 2.35$, $p < .1$ (.074)) was found. Figure 1 represents this interaction graphically.

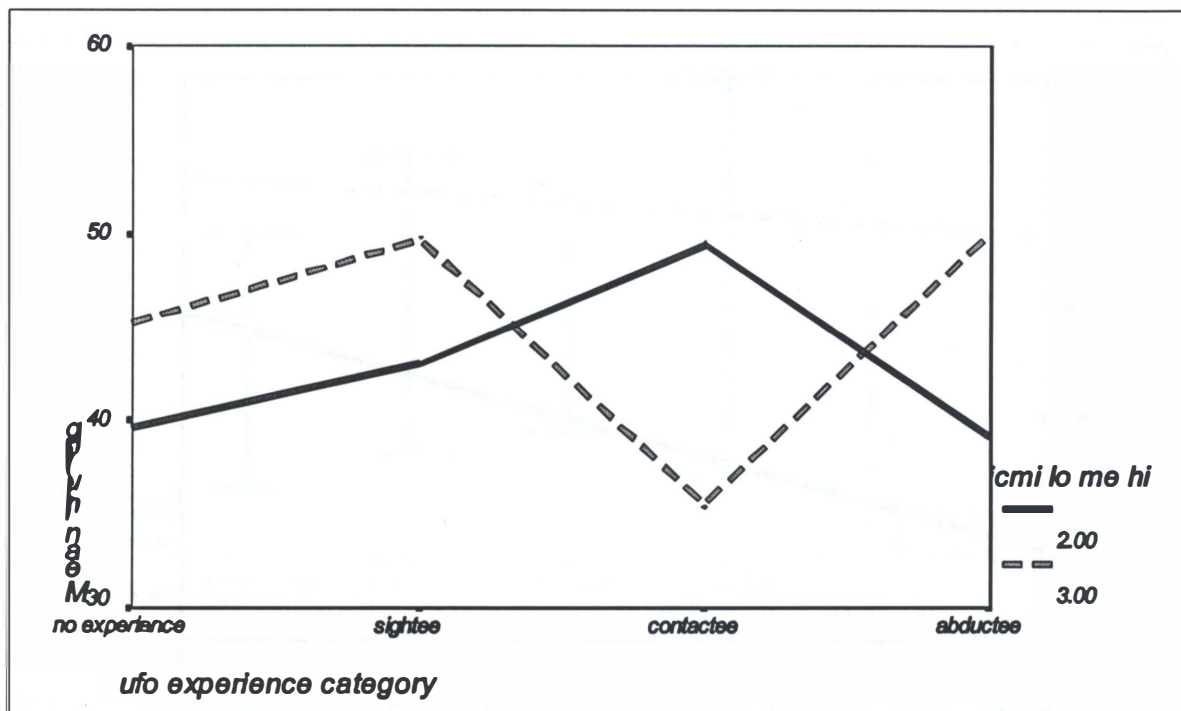


Figure 1. Interaction between UFO Experience and ICMI (2 = medium, 3 = high) on the Intuition dimension of the Myers-Briggs.

The UFO experience groups were combined for ease of interpretation of this interaction effect. Figure 2 represents this interaction with the groups combined. As can be seen, the effect of UFO experience was greater when accompanied by medium ICMI scores, as opposed to high ICMI scores.

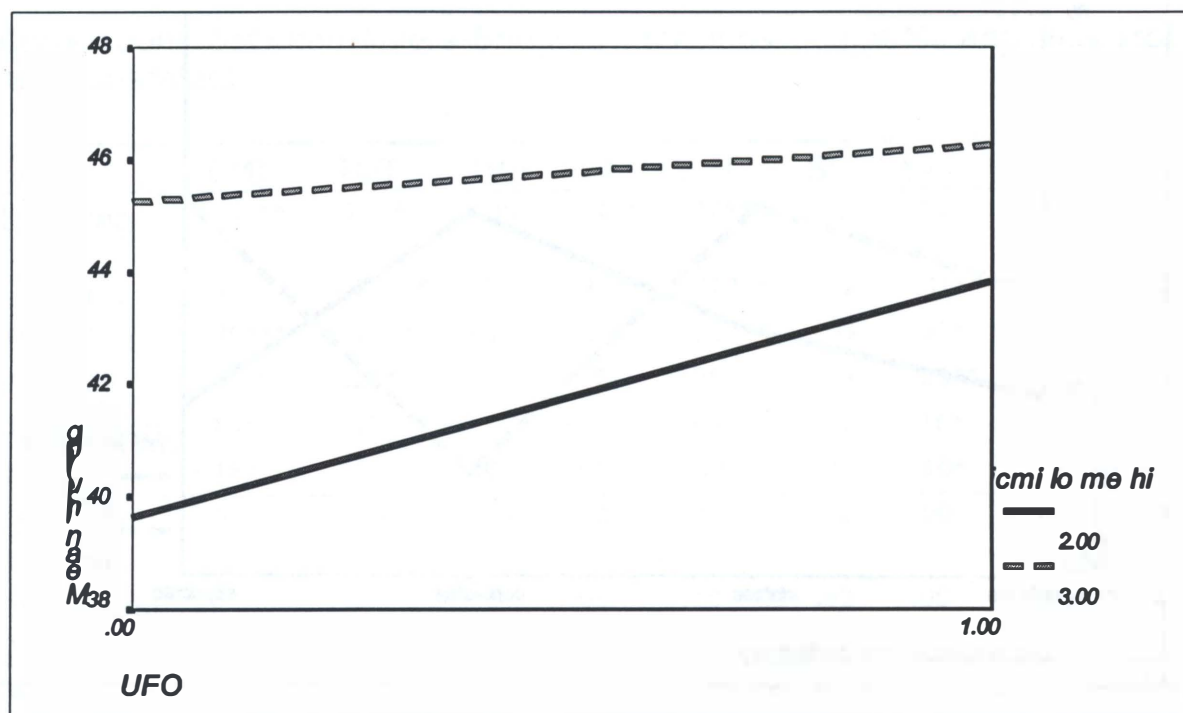


Figure 2. Interaction between UFO Experience (with experiencers grouped together) and ICMI (2 = medium, 3 = high) on the Intuition dimension of the Myers-Briggs.

Post hoc Student-Newman-Keuls analysis revealed that UFO experiencers scoring medium or high on the ICMI were significantly higher on the intuition dimension than controls with medium ICMI scores. There was no significant interaction between ICMI and UFO experience for the Thinking-Feeling continuum.

Interaction between Intuition and Total Paranormal Belief Scores.

A one-way MANOVA was conducted to assess the possible interaction effect of the Intuition-Sensing and total paranormal beliefs score given the highly significant correlation between the two variables (shown in Table 4) and their independent effects as found by one-way ANOVAs. Using the Wilk's criterion, the interaction effect was found to be significant ($F(6, 386) = 6.57, p < .001$) with an effect size of $\eta^2 = .09$ (Wilk's lambda). This interaction is presented graphically in Figure 3.

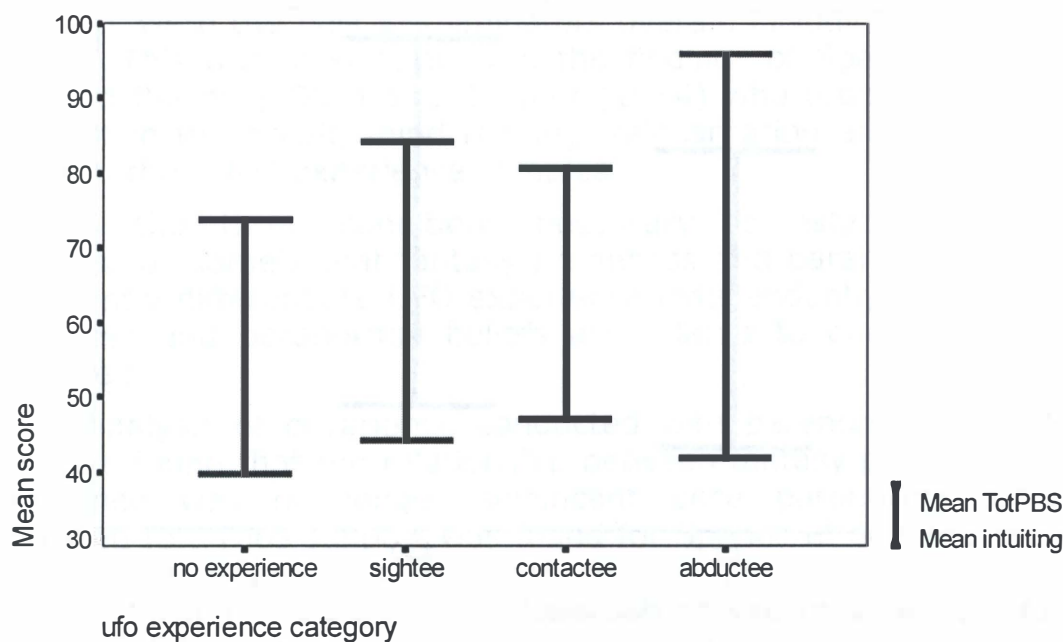


Figure 3. Interaction between Intuition and Total Paranormal Belief Score on UFO Experience.

Note: The bottom row of points represents the main effect of intuition across UFO category. The top row of points represents the main effect of total paranormal beliefs on UFO category. The interaction is represented by the fact that the difference between means on intuiting and belief differs across UFO categories (as represented by the different lengths of the joining lines).

Once again for ease of interpretation, the UFO experiencers were grouped together. Figure 4 illustrates this interaction with controls compared to experiencers. As can be seen, the strength of the interaction between paranormal beliefs and intuiting is different across UFO experience category.

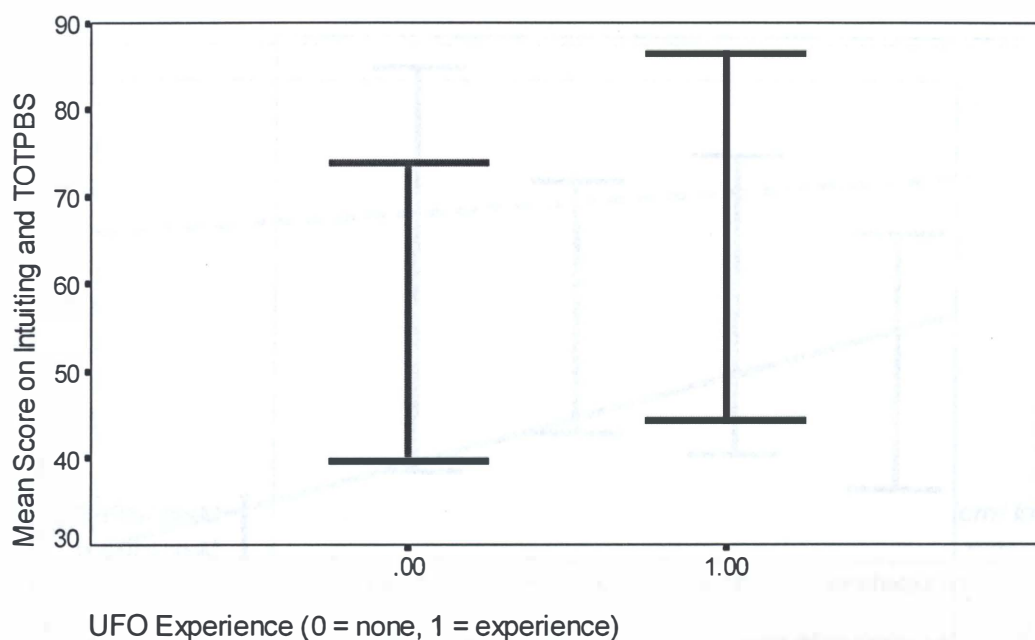


Figure 4. Interaction between Intuition and Total Paranormal Belief Score on UFO Experience (with experiencers grouped together).

Note: The bottom row of points represents the main effect of intuition across UFO category. The top row of points represents the main effect of total paranormal beliefs on UFO category. The interaction is represented by the fact that the difference between means on intuiting and belief differs across UFO categories (as represented by the different lengths of the joining lines).

Hypotheses

The first set of hypotheses assessed in this study related to fantasy proneness and paranormal belief and their relationship to UFO experience. Firstly, it was found that all UFO experience groups scored significantly higher on the ICMI than did controls. This is contrary to the research of Spanos et al. (1993) who found no significant difference between controls and UFO experiencers on the ICMI.

The relationship between fantasy proneness (as measured by the ICMI, Wilson & Barber, 1983) and paranormal beliefs was explored next in relation to the hypothesised mediation relationship between the two variables. Fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs were correlated at .44 supporting the hypothesis that the two would be related. This was in keeping with Council and Huff's (1990) findings of a relationship between these two variables. However, contrary to Irwin's (1990) finding, that all the subscales of the PBS correlated with ICMI scores, the traditional religious belief subscale did not correlate with ICMI scores in this sample.

In addition, it was hypothesised that UFO experiencers would have higher paranormal belief scores than controls. This hypothesis was also supported. In addition, all of the subscales of the PBS (Tobacyk & Milford, 1983), apart from traditional religious belief and superstition, significantly differentiated between the groups. The witchcraft and spiritualism

subscales were the best discriminators overall, including total paranormal beliefs. This was in keeping with the findings of Spanos et al. (1993), Ring and Rosing (1990) and Zimmer (1984) who reported higher scores on belief in the occult, mind reading, reincarnation and general spiritual beliefs in their UFO experience samples.

Thus the three conditions necessary to establish a mediation relationship, namely that fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs both significantly differentiate UFO experience independently, and that fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs are related to each other, were all supported.

An analysis of covariance conducted with paranormal beliefs as the covariate found that the relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience was no longer significant once paranormal beliefs are controlled for. Thus support was found for Spanos et al.s' (1993) claim of a mediation relationship, between fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs, utilising a validated measure of paranormal belief (Tobacyk & Milford, 1983). Among subjects high in paranormal beliefs, those high in fantasy proneness were more likely to report UFO experience (Spanos et al., 1993).

The relationships between the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator continuums (Myers, 1962) and fantasy proneness, and paranormal beliefs, were explored next. The effect of personality on UFO experience, both direct and interactional was then investigated. A correlation between the feeling dimension and the precognition subscale (a validated measure of belief in ESP) of the PBS (Tobacyk & Milford, 1983), as found by Murphy and Lester (1976), was replicated. However, when the analysis was conducted without the UFO experiencers, the correlation between the two variables was no longer significant.

This effect may be explained (at least in part) by the finding that scores on the feeling dimension were significantly higher in the UFO experience groups than in controls. Thus since UFO experiencers tended to have higher scores on the feeling dimension than expected in the population, the analysis of the relationship between feeling and precognition (also significantly higher in UFO experiencers) may have been unduly influenced by other effects. Exploration of group differences on the Myers-Briggs (Myers, 1962) dimensions revealed some interesting patterns. It was found that subjects who identified as abductees were significantly higher on the feeling dimension (and thus lower on the thinking dimension) than the control group. This finding cements this relationship hinted at by the relationships between feeling and belief and belief and experience.

The Intuiting-Sensing continuum also differed across the controls and UFO experience groups. It was found that UFO experiencers were significantly higher on the intuition dimension (and thus lower on the sensing dimension) than controls. However, the most interesting finding regarding this personality dimension was the indication that this personality dimension interacts with both fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs in differentiating controls from UFO experiencers.

The finding that certain personality dimensions (as measured by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Myers, 1962) were related to UFO experience was in direct contrast to Butler (1993) who claimed that this population was characterised by no personality style. However, Butler's claims were apparently merely observational in nature. These findings suggest that personality dimensions are worthy of study in the development of a UFO experienter profile.

Profile of a UFO Experienter

This study has added further to the understanding of a possible profile of a UFO experienter. It seems that, in addition to high paranormal beliefs and fantasy proneness, these experiencers are higher on personality dimensions related to the intuition and feeling dimensions of the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (Myers, 1962). Further research could perhaps incorporate additional psychological variables to enable the formulation of a more complete profile of UFO experiencers. However, caution is advocated when researching psychological characteristics of UFO experiencers. There is a hint of an underlying response bias in this data obtained from UFO experiencers (abductees in particular), showing a tendency to score highly on most variables they are measured on. Future research could perhaps take this into account by means of a measure of response bias, thus monitoring this effect.

Conclusion and Methodological Issues

There were two methodological issues in this study which may have detrimentally affected the reliability of some of the findings. Firstly, the definitions of UFO contact and abduction could have been (and were, by a few subjects) interpreted as referring to near death experiences or communication with the dead. Thus some subjects who were classified as having had UFO sighting or contact experience may have, in fact, been misclassified as UFO experiencers. A tighter definition of contact and abduction may yield more accurate findings.

The second methodological shortcoming is in relation to sample size. The UFO experience sample in this study was fairly small. The subjects in the sample may not have been representative of UFO experiencers in the population. A larger sample size would allow more confident inferences regarding the hypotheses of this study.

Overall however, this study found support for Spanos et al.'s (1993) suggestion that the relationship between fantasy proneness and UFO experience is mediated by paranormal beliefs. The discovery of the interactions between personality characteristics, fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs, in differentiating UFO experiencers from controls, may provide some basis for future research explorations into a possible UFO experienter profile.

References

Appelle, S. (1996). The abduction experience: A critical evaluation of theory and evidence. Journal of UFO Studies, 6, 29-78.

Banaji, M.R., & Kihlstrom, J.F. (1996). The ordinary nature of alien abduction memories. Psychological Inquiry, 7, 132-135.

Bartholomew, R.E., Basterfield, K., & Howard, S. (1991). UFO abductees and contactees: Psychopathology or fantasy proneness. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 22, 215-222.

Basterfield, K. (1997). An analysis of an Australian survey questionnaire on the after effects of UFO abductions. Unpublished manuscript.

Butler, R.D. (1993). "Abduction" experience classification. UFO Universe, 3, 1-27.

Council, J.R., & Huff, K.D. (1990). Hypnosis, fantasy activity and reports of paranormal experiences in high, medium and low fantasises. British Journal of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis, 7, 9-15.

Fellows, B.J., & Wright, V. (1989). Fantasy proneness: Data and observations on the British use of the Inventory of Childhood Memories and Imaginings (ICMI). British Journal of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis, 6, 57-59.

Irwin, H.J. (1990). Fantasy proneness and paranormal beliefs. Psychological Reports, 66, 655-658.

Jacobs, D.M. (1992). Secret life: Firsthand accounts of UFO abductions. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Klass, P.J. (1999). Space.com's CIA-UFO cover-up mixes with news on web. Skeptical Inquirer, 23 (6), 5-8.

Mack, J.E. (1994). Abduction: Human encounters with aliens. New York: Scribner's.

McLeod, C.C., Corbisier, B., & Mack, J.E. (1996). A more parsimonious explanation for UFO abduction. Psychological Inquiry, 7, 156-168.

Murray, J.B. (1990). Review of research on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Perceptual and Motor Skills, 70, 1187-1202.

Murphy, K., & Lester, D. (1976). A search for correlates of belief in ESP. Psychological Reports, 38, 82.

Myers, I. (1962). The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Princeton: Educational Testing Service.

Newman, L.S., & Baumeister, R.F. (1996). Not just another false memory: Further thoughts on the UFO abduction phenomenon. Psychological Inquiry, 7, 185-197.

Parnell, J. (1988). Measured personality characteristics of persons who claim UFO experiences. Psychotherapy in private practice, 6, 159-165.

Parnell, J.O., & Sprinkle, R.L. (1990). Personality characteristics of persons who claim UFO experiences. Journal of UFO Studies, 2, 45-58.

Price, R. (1997). Arizonans say the truth about UFO is out there. USA Today, June 18, p. 4A.

Rauschenberger, S.L., & Lynn, S.J. (1995). Fantasy proneness, DSM-III-R axis I psychopathology, and dissociation. Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 104, 373-380.

Rhue, J.W., & Lynn, S.J. (1989). Fantasy proneness, hypnotizability, and absorption - A re-examination: A brief communication. The International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, 37, 100-106.

Ring, K., & Rosing, C.J. (1990). The Omega project: A psychological survey of persons reporting abductions and other UFO encounters. Journal of UFO Studies, 2, 59-98.

Silva, C.E. & Kirsch, I (1992). Interpretive sets, expectancy, fantasy proneness, and dissociation as predictors of hypnotic response. Journal of Personality and Social psychology, 63, 847-856.

Siuta, J. (1990). Fantasy proneness: Towards cross-cultural comparisons. British Journal of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis, 7, 93-101.

Sheaffer, R. (1986). The UFO Verdict. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus.

Spanos, N.P., Burgess, C.A., & Burgess, M.F. (1994). Past-life identities, UFO abductions, and satanic ritual abuse: The social construction of memories. The International Journal of Clinical and

Experimental Hypnosis, 42, 433-446.

Spanos, N.P., Cross, P.A., Dickson, K., & DuBreuil, S.C. (1993). Close encounters: An examination of UFO experiences. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 102, 624-632.

Tobacyk, J., & Milford, G. (1983). Belief in paranormal phenomenon: Assessment instrument development and implications for personality functioning. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 44, 1029-1037.

Westerfelhaus, R., & Combs, A. (1998). Criminal investigations and spiritual quests: the X-files as an example of hegemonic concordance in a mass-mediated society. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 22(2), 205-221.

Wilson, S.C., & Barber, T.X. (1983). The fantasy prone personality: Implications for understanding imagery, hypnosis, and parapsychological phenomena. In A.A. Sheikh (Ed.), *Imagery: Current theory, research, and application* (pp.340-387). New York: Wiley.

Zimmer, T.A. (1984). Social psychological correlates of possible UFO sightings. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 123, 199-206.

New UFO cases, statistics update and a few thoughts.

Hannes la Rue

MUFON - Central European Society

Munich - The Society for the Scientific Investigation of Anomalous Atmospheric and Radar Phenomena (MUFON-CES) cannot confirm a decrease in UFO reports. This was recently repeatedly announced by the German Central Research Network of Anomalous Sky Phenomena (CENAP)¹. However we keep on receiving about two reports per month that just stay unidentified. We have studied 431 UFO reports since 1974. Most objects were reported to be saucer shaped (26 %), followed by ball shaped objects/lights (24 %), triangular/quadrangular objects (15 %) and unusually shaped objects (12 %). As updated statistics² show we could identify 62 objects on photos and 18 objects on film. Additional 48 reports without photos or film could be identified. In 62.5 % of the identified cases disco laser light shows were misinterpreted as UFOs. 303 cases (70 %) remain unidentified. 48 previously unpublished cases (including drawings) are now online in German language³. Last year (2000) we could not identify 17 UFO reports (1999:15; 1998:29; 1997:25).

The past month we received two very typical reports - typical because the objects scared the observers. During the night from June 8th to 9th a married couple was pursued by two milky white shining objects in the sky, about as large as the moon. The witnesses were scared because they felt the objects were watching them. The oppression became even more intense as they noticed that the objects stopped and seemingly hovered above their house. Soon the objects became smaller and disappeared. On May 28th a woman observed three supposedly 40 meters wide and 16 meters long triangles in about 200 meters altitude. They moved very slowly. The objects appeared "threatening" because the dully rumbling objects were so close.

MUFON-CES can't understand why CENAP hardly receives UFO reports anymore. Maybe observers know that people at CENAP only explain and don't investigate. But indeed UFO interest of the public is very low at the moment. Books on the subject for example are sold very badly. The agenda setting media, especially nationwide subscription newspapers, are as sceptical and polemic as ever. Die Welt ran a huge debunking piece on UFOs a few days ago. Interestingly Germany's leading tabloid newspaper BILD recently speculated if NATO had fear of UFOs after George W. Bush mysteriously spoke of "new threats"⁴.

The media have repeatedly covered the closing of the British Flying Saucer Bureau⁵. Research colleagues: Has anyone ever heard of this organization? Even on UFO UpDates it is hardly known but the event gets worldwide coverage⁶. The Disclosure Projects is active at the same time in the US⁷. Strange, isn't it?

A representative poll of the Allensbacher Research Institute shows, that every fifth German under 30 years "believes in visitors from out of space"⁸. At the same time the Emnid Research Institute conducted a similar poll. This one even showed that every fifth German regardless of age believes in a UFO reality⁹. A recent Gallup poll shows that every third US American believes that earth has been visited¹⁰.

- (1) <http://www.faz.com/IN/INtemplates/eFAZ/archive.asp?doc={27286BCF-37BB-11D5-A3B5-009027BA22E4}&width=1024&height=740&agt=explorer&ver=4&svr=4>
- (2) <http://www.mufon-ces.org/docs/statistics2001.pdf>
- (3) <http://www.mufon-ces.org/docs/update2001.pdf>
- (4) <http://www.BILD.de/service/archiv/2001/jun/15/politik/bush/bush.html>
- (5) <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,2-118521,00.html>
- (6) <http://www.aliensonearth.com/ufo/updates/2001/apr/m26-026.shtml>
- (7) <http://www.disclosureproject.org>
- (8) http://www.ifd-allensbach.de/pdf/prd_0113.pdf
- (9) <http://www.chrismon.de/ctexte/2001/6/phenom.pdf>
- (10) <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr010608.asp>

**Flying Saucers:
Behind the Cold War Veil
Of Military Intelligence**
Michael Hall with Wendy Connors

*Montgomery County
Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 127
(212, South Water St.)
Crawfordsville, IN 47933-0127*

E-mail: mchs@wico.net

ABSTRACT. Thundering out of the dark gray skies above the North Sea a British Mosquito night fighter found itself in hot pursuit of an unknown and violently maneuvering radar target. It was a snowy and cold night, around 10:30 P.M. on January 16, 1947. At 22,000 feet, a long chase ensued which ended over Norfolk, England, when the "unidentified aircraft" evaded pursuit.¹ That was by no means the first UFO account in history but perhaps the earliest for 1947. The incident was even written about in English and American newspapers but did not receive the attention that Kenneth Arnold did six months later when he spotted nine saucer-like objects over Mount Rainier in Washington State. Hundreds if not thousands of "flying saucer" sightings followed in June and July. According to onetime Blue Book director Edward J. Ruppelt, the saucer reports which really shook up U.S. military intelligence occurred over Muroc Army Air Field on July 7 and 8 of that year. Certainly, since the intensity of reports had picked up during a long 4th of July weekend, the military had become concerned. By July 9 the Pentagon had decided to interview some witnesses and conduct investigations. The Air Materiel Command at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, was then brought into the picture. Its intelligence unit started to compile reports and by September had recommended a formal project be established. The first of a series of investigations began in early 1948. From 1948 to 1951 Air Force Intelligence in both Dayton and Washington struggled with the issue. All the while the press consistently inquired about the military's opinion on the sightings. Little, however, was forthcoming from the Air Force because the subject was considered "a highly classified matter." The drama behind those very secretive investigations by Air Force Intelligence is an interesting although little understood and still incomplete story. So let's look at the ongoing efforts by historians to pierce the Cold War veil of secrecy surrounding those early UFO sightings—then known only as "flying saucers."

FLYING SAUCER STORIES FROM WRIGHT FIELD

Although flying saucers caught the attention of U.S. military intelligence in 1947, the first official investigation, Project Sign, did not begin until February 11, 1948.² This was for all practical purposes a continuation of work that had been going on since the late summer of 1947 under aeronautical engineer **Alfred Loedding**. He worked as a civilian employee for the intelligence unit of the **Air Materiel Command (AMC)** in Dayton, Ohio, at Wright Field.

A document termed the "Twining memo" had set the wheels in motion for it all. Signed on September 23, 1947, by AMC commander **Lieutenant General Nathan F. Twining**, it had been drafted by T-2 (AMC Intelligence unit) Commander **Colonel Howard M. McCoy**. The

AMC had been asked by Pentagon Intelligence Requirements Chief Brigadier General George F. Schulgen for an assessment and this was it.

Aside from stating that the flying saucers were "~~something real and not visionary or fictitious~~," the Twining memo urged that a permanent project be established to investigate and analyze future disc reports. While this would dovetail with that work already initiated by Alfred Loedding under Colonel McCoy's T-2 Intelligence unit, everyone realized a formal investigation was needed.³ So Major General Laurence C. Craigie (Director of USAF Research & Development) in Washington made it official. He issued an order on December 30, 1947, approving a group "to collect, collate, evaluate and distribute to interested government agencies and contractors all information concerning sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere which can be construed to be of concern to the national security." Since the AMC at Wright (and nearby Patterson) Field was then a directorate of General Graigie's command, Dayton ended up with the UFO project.

Thus came the "official" establishment under the AMC's T-2 Intelligence unit of Project HT-304, which was given the code word Sign.⁴ Air Force Technical Instruction No. TI-2185, gave Sign a "2A priority," the second highest rating, and a security classification of "RESTRICTED," the lowest.⁵ Sign and the later Grudge code names were kept secret, but their existence became known in the press by 1949 as Project Saucer.⁶

T-2's Project Sign at the newly merged Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) lasted only one year, but it had a very noteworthy heyday. Sign worked through a system of channels. Air Force Intelligence officers stationed at a base near a sighting, or in some cases Naval Intelligence, usually were asked by T-2 to conduct the first investigations. The Fourth Air Force Intelligence unit working out of Hamilton Field, California, stands as an example. The Air Defense Command (ADC) at Mitchel Field, New York, was also involved. They, in fact, initiated the Fourth Air Force's early interviews in July 1947 of Kenneth Arnold who was the first witness to make "flying saucer" headlines.⁷ The ADC used a Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) detachment assigned to them with agents also farmed out to various bases and numbered Air Forces like the Fourth.⁸ Some CIC officers assigned to the ADC were looking into a few of the first sightings before anyone else. CIC units and a successor organization known as the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI) would continue active investigations through a system of district bases throughout the U.S.⁹

After the formal activation of Project Sign at the AMC's T-2 Intelligence unit (soon renamed Technical Intelligence Department or TID), TID was supposed to administer over all the case files on the disc sightings.¹⁰ Despite this, some reports were exclusively filed at Air Force Intelligence Headquarters in the Pentagon (AFOIN).

In perfect theory, after coming into the AMC, reports were suppose to go down to TID. From there they went to TID's Analysis Division. Sign team members, who were assigned under the Analysis Division, were often working on many other assignments in those early Cold War days. But once a noteworthy report arose, a Sign investigator or extra staff person from somewhere within TID or even AMC would at times be dispatched to a sighting location if further investigation was warranted. In

most cases, however, a CIC officer or FBI agent near the event did the initial interrogation of witnesses. (The FBI had been utilized by the Pentagon to assist with investigations since early July 1947.)¹¹

Occasionally, the preliminary CIC or FBI reports were literally cut and pasted together to form some of the Sign case files. For that reason and others which included a shortage of clerical help, many of the early Project Sign files are brief. This is mainly because its engineering director, Alfred Loedding, was very lax in compiling written reports—being more of an engineer than a proper file clerk.¹²

The paperwork that was produced was filed not just in Dayton, but with any government agency which could be of assistance. This was necessary because Project Sign had no dedicated funds and all expenses for investigations had to be gleaned from other TID/AMC operations. So coordination with a wide host of agencies was often necessary to conduct specialized analysis. These included such groups as the CIA, FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Weather Bureau, Rand Corporation, U.S. Army and Navy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), U.S. State Department and the Defense Department's Research and Development Board (R&DB).¹³ Some select government, industrial and university experts were consulted as well.

The General Electric Langmuir Laboratory is a classic example. The firm is named in honor of Dr. Irving Langmuir who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1932 for his discoveries and investigations in surface chemistry. He was associated with the company's research laboratory from its formation in 1909 until his death in 1957.¹⁴ On a number of occasions the Project Sign team consulted with Dr. Langmuir.

Dr. Langmuir recalled this in a December 18, 1957 speech. In his talk, he was skeptical about flying saucer reports in general but gave some very interesting insights on Project Sign and its investigators:

I [Langmuir] was a member of General Schwartz's Advisory Committee after the war, and we held some very secret meetings in Washington in which there was a thing called project SIGN. I think it's s-i-g-n. Anyway, it was hushed up. It was hardly even talked about and it was the flying saucer stuff, gathering the evidence, and weighing and evaluating the data on flying saucers. And he [General Schwartz] said, "You know, it's very serious, it really looks as though there is something there."

Well, I told him afterwards—I told him this story here. I said that it seems to me from what I know about flying saucers they look like this sort of thing. Well, anyway, it ended up by two men being brought to Schenectady with a boiled down group of about twenty or thirty best cases from hundreds and hundreds that they knew all about. I didn't want them all, I said to pick out about thirty or forty of the best cases, and bring them to Schenectady, and we'll spend a couple of days going over them.

Most of them were Venus seen in the evening through a murky atmosphere. Venus can be seen in the middle of the day if you know where to look for it. Almost any clear bright day especially when Venus is at its brightest, and sometimes it's caused almost panic. It has caused traffic congestion in New York City when Venus is seen in the evening near some of the buildings around Times Square and people thought it was a comet about to collide with the earth, or somebody from Mars, or something of that

sort. That was a long time ago. That was thirty or forty years ago. Venus still causes flying saucers.

Well, they [the Sign people] only had one photograph or two photographs taken by one man. It looked like a piece of tar paper when I first saw it and the two photographs showed the thing in entirely different shapes. I asked for more details about it. What was the weather at the time? Well, they didn't know but they'd look it up. And they got out some papers and there it was. It was taken about fifteen or twenty minutes after a violent thunderstorm out in Ohio [sic—this is the Rhodes photo from Phoenix, Arizona, they were discussing]. Well, what's more natural than some piece of tar paper picked up by a little miniature twister and being carried a few thousand feet up into the clouds and it was coming down, that's all. So what could it be?

"But it was going at an enormous speed." Of course the man who saw it didn't have the vaguest idea of how far away it was. That's the trouble. If you see something that's up in the sky, a light or any kind of an object, you haven't the vaguest idea of how big it is. You can guess anything you like about the speed. You ask people how big the moon is. Some say as big as a house. Well, how big is it really? You can't tell by looking at it. How can you tell how big a flying saucer is? Well, anyway, after I went through these things [30-40 of Sign's best cases] I didn't find a single one that made any sense at all. There were all things that suffered from these facts. They were all subjective. They were all near a threshold. You don't know what the threshold is exactly in detecting the velocity of an object that you see up in the sky, where you don't know whether it's a thousand feet or ten thousand feet or a hundred thousand feet up. But they all fitted in with this general pattern, namely, that there doesn't seem to be any evidence that there is anything in them. And, anyway, these men were convinced and they ended project SIGN [this talk was given on December 18, 1953].¹⁵

In early 1948 Air Force Headquarters ordered TID to make copies of all their Sign files and forward them to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI).¹⁶ By that point many of the Sign files began to be microfilmed but were of poor quality, indicating that they were meant only for inter-service use.¹⁷ (This was likely conducted right at TID. They had a sophisticated in-house microfilming department that had been activated after the war to assist with the handling of all the German technical documents which Colonel McCoy and the T-2 group had been responsible for.)¹⁸

Some early investigative work on UFOs *may* have been conducted by military units eventually designated ATIC Detachment 1, 2, and 3. These were classified units which had been established during the Second World War to recover Japanese Fugo balloons. At least 9,000 Fugos loaded with incendiary bombs were launched into the jet stream as a desperate attempt by the Japanese to strike back at the U.S. By 1945 the Japanese considered arming the balloons with biological weapons, but the war ended before specially required bomb casings were available. None of this was publicly known in the U.S. because the Western Defense Command always surrounded the units which recovered the balloons with secrecy. One such unit was the 555th Infantry Battalion called the "Triple Nickels." They were an African American paratroop group which distinguished themselves by serving as smoke jumpers—putting out the

many fires in the Northwest caused by the nearly 3,000 balloon bombs that actually succeeded in making the long journey across the Pacific.¹⁹ After the war some of the teams were apparently kept in place in the event that other countries might try to threaten North America with similar balloon warfare. Air Force Colonel Robert J. Friend (a onetime Project Blue Book chief) stated that these units were used to assist with UFO investigations up through 1953. They, however, reported to an intermediate level in Virginia, and their reports did not go directly to Sign or the later Grudge and Blue Book projects.²⁰

THE PEOPLE BEHIND SIGN

So while there were many groups associated in a peripheral way with the saucer reports, it was the Sign project which was at least suppose to have the primary responsibility. **Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Beam** supervised **Major Melvin W. Faulk** who initially monitored the Sign team in coordination with civilian monitor Alfred Loedding.²¹ Major Faulk was transferred in June 1948 and **Captain Robert R. Sneider** took over as military monitor. Both of these men were already working in TID's Analysis Division—headed by **Colonel William R. Clingerman** who in turn worked for Colonel McCoy as TID commander.²²

It is clear Project Sign, although a very small operation, was an important function at TID. To illustrate this, Analysis Chief Colonel Clingerman is often documented by the files as assisting with routine office correspondence related to the disc sightings.²³ The same can be said of Colonel McCoy who took an active personal interest. That is significant alone because aside from flying saucers, there were many other important intelligence projects going on at TID which had a staff of 1,094 (79 officers, 84 enlisted men, and 931 civilians).²⁴ Such a compliment of personnel in the post-war period of downsizing was significant. It stemmed from that special assignment that T-2 had been given at the end of the war to disseminate German technical documents and hardware. However, as early as 1946 Intelligence started to focus on the Soviet Union as a potential military threat.²⁵ From that point on, the Air Force became less and less concerned with what the Germans had developed per se as with what the Germans had learned from fighting the Soviets.

By November 1947, the German advances in aviation had been analyzed and documents indexed. T-2 was reorganized and renamed TID. At that time Major General George C. McDonald, Chief of Air Force Intelligence or AFOIN, wanted TID to intensify their ability to produce technical intelligence reports and estimates on foreign air weapons. In 1948 TID began taking on much of the responsibility for the Air Targets Division commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Raymond S. Sleeper at AFOIN. Once TID focused their efforts on this project they studied foreign published literature to develop economic profiles on countries that may have become potential enemies of the U.S.—namely the USSR and its satellites.²⁶

The Cold War had slowly been developing since March 5, 1946, when responding to an invitation from President Truman to speak in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill brought the phrase *Iron Curtain* into

use "again." At different times in history both Kaiser Wilhelm II and Joseph Goebbels had used that metaphor—warning of a growing threat from Russia.²⁷ But this time history proved Churchill right.

A few days after the speech newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Walter Bedell Smith, paid Churchill a visit. Churchill was in a plush New York City hotel soaking in a hot bath when he received Smith. The flamboyant Churchill, as usual, paid little attention to formalities—commenting only about a group of demonstrators just outside protesting the harsh rhetoric of his Fulton speech. Smith, General Eisenhower's ulcer ridden, hard-driving, wartime chief-of-staff and future CIA director, paid little attention to the picketers. He agreed with Churchill that those same crowds in a year's time would be applauding the former British Prime Minister.²⁸

Churchill had the same premonition about the Soviets that he had over the Nazis a decade earlier. He was then watching his beloved Britain institute bread rationing in order to export enough grain to keep food riots from erupting in Allied-occupied Germany. That was a hardship English citizens had not even had to endure during the darkest days of the war. Subsequent pressure on Parliament led Britain to abandon efforts to check Communist expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. President Truman felt America had to fill that vacuum.

To drum up Congressional support for aid to Greece and Turkey as well as aid to Europe, the Truman administration intentionally exploited public anxiety. The battleship *Missouri* sailed to the Mediterranean as pre-CIA-like operations were conducted out of the State Department with former OSS agents to check the Communists in the Italian elections.²⁹ As the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan were on the drawing board, real fears over a blockade of Berlin were already in the news.

On St. Patrick's day, March 17, 1948, President Truman went before a joint session of congress. He asked for immediate passage of the Marshall Plan that had endlessly been debated for over a year. He also called for a reinstatement of the draft—an unprecedented move in an election year. For the first time, he identified the Soviet Union as the *one* nation blocking peace in Europe.³⁰ That same day Eleanor Roosevelt received a personal letter from Truman. In it the president stated: "It is the most serious situation we have faced since 1939, I shall face it with everything I have."³¹ The Russian blockade of Berlin was then just four months away.

Even with the more urgent Cold War threat at hand which kept TID extremely busy, Colonel McCoy gave Project Sign significant attention. McCoy appointed Captain Robert Sneider as the military administrator after Major Faulk left in June—with Loedding continuing as engineering director of the team. In fact, since the fall of 1947 and the formal establishment of Project Sign, files describe Loedding as "project engineer for unidentified flying objects."³² That may have been the first informal use of the term UFO.

A few other notable TID staff members that assisted the Sneider/Loedding Sign team were, Lawrence H. Truettner (missile specialist), Nicholas (Nick) Post (aeronautical engineer), John H. Zell (aircraft analysis specialist), George W. Towles (field collections,

warehouse monitor and future Project Grudge civilian monitor), Major Raymond A. Llewellyn (technical assistant), Lieutenant Howard W. Smith (future Project Grudge military administrator) and John S. "Red" Honaker (special assistant to Colonel McCoy).

Lieutenant Colonel Miles R. Goll, who was a key man on Colonel McCoy's staff, seems to have served as a supervisor of sorts over some of the UFO work. Again, this illustrates that Project Sign, although a relatively small operation, was taken very seriously. In a recent interview with a veteran from those early days, it was stated that Miles Goll (who had been Chief of the Analysis Division in 1946) had firsthand knowledge of the operation. The veteran recalled Goll showing him a segregated room at TID where the disc sightings were being studied. The person interviewed was Victor H. Bilek, a close friend and car pool rider with Miles Goll. Mr. Bilek, who worked for many years in the armaments section of T-2/TID/ATIC and their successor organization FTD, does not recall the exact date of this incident. But the point is that he remembers Miles Goll being associated with the work at an early stage—which was assumed to be a very classified operation at the time.³³ It is certainly clear from the National Archives' holdings of the T-2/TID/ATIC/FTD files that Miles Goll assisted with duties related to the UFO projects in Dayton as early as 1947 and on occasion through 1953.³⁴ Goll also became a key liaison with the Battelle Memorial Institute—a highly secretive think tank nearby in Columbus, Ohio.

By early 1948, **Albert Bonnelle Deyarmond** (a reserve Army Air Force colonel discussed shortly) also became a key team member. He in fact seems to have become as central to the investigative work as Alfred Loedding. However, Missile expert Lawrence Truettner was the one who worked the closest with Loedding on the disc sightings. Yet oral history interviews of those who knew the men show that Loedding and Truettner, while very bright, did not fit into the atmosphere at Wright Field. They were rather eclectic, excitable gentlemen who probably would have fit in much better on a university campus than in the highly regulated T-2/TID outfit.

Loedding, in particular, had a very eccentric personality which clashed with the military way of doing things. Most disturbing of all to his Air Force superiors was his reluctance to file detailed paperwork—a cardinal sin among any military bureaucrats.³⁵ Loedding seems to have preferred to simply keep most of his analysis in his head, at least until he could reach firm conclusions.

THE GREAT ALFRED LOEDDING

Alfred Loedding is remembered by numerous veterans as having a favorite saying: "Tough sledding—no snow." Loedding used that phrase a lot at T-2/TID because his ideas were always considered on the very theoretical fringes of aviation engineering. As a result, he did have some rather tough sledding. So it seems did Project Sign.

Loedding was just basically ahead of his time, being one of the few American visionaries cognizant of the advantages inherent in flying wing designs. In his spare time, he had been building models of such aircraft since 1933 when Loedding had a very early UFO sighting. By 1948, he

patented several low aspect ratio or all-lifting body designs. When the German flying wing experimental aircraft were recovered at the end of World War II, Loedding would have been part of the team at T-2 to evaluate such concepts. Loedding even created the special projects group known as Aeronautical Sciences with Nick Post to evaluate such revolutionary technology.

In terms of the advances the Germans had made in low aspect ratio airfoils, everyone agreed that they displayed certain advantages that should be studied. As a matter of fact, fifty some years later such ideas made their way into designs like the F-117 Stealth Fighter and B-2 Stealth Bomber. But the difference with Loedding was that he did not want to wait for fifty years of development. He wanted the military and the aircraft industry to invest heavily in radical avionics then. It might have even been a good idea except that in the postwar environment there was not the perceived need nor funds to take such steps despite the growing Cold War.

This is evident in Jack Northrop's revolutionary design of a flying wing bomber which appeared by 1947. Known as the XB-35 and later as the YB-49 when changed from piston to jet power, it was a very advanced airframe. The aircraft, however, was never given a fair evaluation by the Air Force which was not ready to invest in such a radical concept. As the military then saw it, there were still too many minor technical problems with the flying wing to integrate it into a logistical framework designed around conventional aircraft configurations.

With respect to Loedding, he never could appreciate the subtleties of such considerations and simply could not understand why everyone did not see things through the same visionary eyes that he had. If it had been up to him, the Air Force would have given a large contract to Northrop and they would have never built the large and cumbersome B-36 bomber so identified with the early days of the Strategic Air Command (SAC). Perhaps, that is why Loedding was only taken seriously when consulting on special and highly unique problems such as the early disc sightings.

He did have a rather eclectic background. When Loedding came to Wright Labs back in 1938 he was by then, a self-taught authority on all of the newest aviation developments like rockets. He even served as a key Air Force contact with the American rocket pioneer Robert H. Goddard who at the time was working out of Roswell, New Mexico. Although, much of Loedding's rocket work was done on his own initiative. For example, Loedding with his brother, Fred, had launched some of the first small handmade rockets in Dayton despite fears by local Wright Field authorities that his "toys" would kill someone. Soon, Loedding was ordered to stop launching the dangerous missiles but this did not stop him from experimenting with highly combustible and toxic solid rocket fuels that he was sure would one day take men into space—something that he may have recalled with affection when he became the first Air Force liaison to NASA many years later.

Loedding won a reputation as a technical innovator when he became civilian chief of the first Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Wright Field in 1940. In his resume he stated that while there, "I pioneered the work in rocket type engines . . . I initiated and monitored all work that finally resulted in

a modern and complete Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1943."³⁶

After that, Loedding went to work at the Armament Laboratory on the development of another project of his, the hydrobomb. The hydrobomb was a type of underwater rocket-propelled torpedo that was to be carried by aircraft for anti-ship warfare. While in this project, Loedding served as the chief liaison with private contractors but apparently ran against military procedure in his work. As a result of that, he voluntarily resigned from the project in disgust with the wasteful management of time and resources that the military bureaucracy exhibited in its own efforts to develop weapons systems.

Afterwards, Loedding realized weapons production must be entrusted with private industry. Nevertheless, Wright Field continued to use him as a military liaison and trouble-shooter with other industries involved in government war production contracts. This included work on the B-29 project and its successor, the B-50. During this time Loedding worked on the problem of engine fires that plagued so many B-29s coming off the first production runs.

After the war he briefly worked full-time for the T-2 Intelligence Division. It is unknown what projects he was involved with, but soon Loedding was back in the (T-3) Engineering Division. Apparently by then, he served mainly in research and development projects and was still used as a corporate liaison and technical assistant. At the time he coordinated on the first stages of development of the huge B-36 bomber. While on the B-36 project he assisted with the shaping and forming of magnesium alloy sheet metal at the B-36 plant in Fort Worth, Texas.

He wrote that at that time, "I visited major aircraft companies and manufacturing concerns, such as the Aluminum Company of America and their sub-contractors to solve manufacturing difficulties and tooling problems. I also visited various other plants throughout the country and was solely responsible for examination of their manufacturing ability and then recommending the awarding of contracts to Procurement Division." By February 17, 1946, Loedding returned to T-2 Intelligence. He wrote that at that time:

I joined the [T-2] Analysis Division . . . and took a leading part in organizing the Aircraft Section. I created the Supersonic Unit and became Chief for approximately two months. I was then advanced to Civilian Chief, Aircraft Section, and supervised the Section jointly with the Military Chief, which was the policy at that time. I held that position from April until June, and was then loaned to the Office of the Technical Assistant in order to replace Major Ryan, who was scheduled to leave in July; I took complete charge of the Office of the Technical Assistant on 1 August 1946, after Major Ryan resigned in July.³⁷

From August 1946 to May 1949, Loedding officially worked as the "Technical Assistant to the Chief of the Technical Analysis Division—forming the Aeronautical Sciences office of MCIA. **MCIA** was T-2/TID's parent organizational acronym. In other words, it was their unit designation under AMC. It went [Air] Materiel Command for MC and I for Intelligence—MCI. In this case TID's Analysis Division was called MCIA—A for Analysis. MCIA was composed of two sections. One became known as

the Operations Section or MCIAO and the other as Technical Analysis Section or MCIAT.

MCIAT had a number of branches such as Special Analysis—MCIAXB, where Nicholas Post worked. Another was Foreign Liaison—MCIAXL. Then Aircraft and Guided Missiles Analysis—MCIA (A, where John Zell and Lawrence Truettner resided. Still another was Special Projects—MCIAXO, headed by Major Raymond Llewellyn. Special Projects actually became the birth cradle of Project Sign because that is where innovative ad hoc committees formed. The Sign project was thus designated MCIAXO-3.

Alfred Loedding, in fact, may have lobbied for such a special (UFO) project out of the Special Projects group before authorization came down from the Pentagon. But, because all of these offices were very fluid, one can now see how the Sign team formed piecemeal from different areas within the vast TID organization.

Aside from what would become an active job in UFO investigations, Loedding also supervised the offices of Guided Missiles and Foreign Industrial Facilities. It is unclear why, but even though Loedding was technically employed by T-2 Intelligence, he retained his office in Area B at Wright Field in Building 11A. This was understandable up to December of 1947 because the T-2/TID Analysis Division had all their offices in the nice modern buildings designated 11 and 11A.

Both buildings were conveniently located adjacent to the Wright Labs and the T-3 Division engineering offices. Unfortunately, after a very spirited Christmas party held in building 11A by the flamboyant officers at TID, the Wright Field Area B base commander, Brigadier General Joseph T. Morris, banished them. Morris wanted the intelligence boys out of Wright Field forever and to this very day Intelligence has been located in Area A near the Patterson Field Area C flight line. (Area A is several miles southeast of Wright Field.)

Once banished to the out-of-the way Area A complex, TID occupied Buildings 287 and 288 behind the AMC Headquarters complex. They were then moved into Building 263 (still in Area A) around late 1949. This all had a detrimental influence because not only did those buildings have miserable working conditions but also were far removed physically from the aviation labs at Wright Field. Veterans from those years have commented to the author how a lack of efficient coordination developed after that point between T-2 Intelligence and T-3 Engineering and the later research and development projects working out of the labs in Area B at Wright Field.³⁸

For some unknown reason, the abrupt relocation of Intelligence to Area A did not seem to include Loedding. Perhaps he may have still been working in some capacity for T-3 Engineering. For whatever reason, Loedding kept his second floor office in Building 11A through 1948. Loedding's resume characterized his duties at that time as follows:

I was authorized to sign all routine correspondence under the jurisdiction of the Technical Assistant's Office when on a Division level. I was responsible for approving all outgoing correspondence and technical reports from my office and the

offices of Guided Missiles and Foreign Industrial Facilities. My principle duties consisted of (1) advising the Chief and his Deputies regarding technical matters of an engineering nature, a technical intelligence nature, and broad plans for accomplishing the overall intelligence mission, (2) acting as the Chief's representative on important conferences that would effect the entire Division, (3) acting as an engineering consultant for all the sections of the Division, (4) monitoring continuous projects, such as the Air Force College Thesis Program and Foreign Aeronautical Trends Report, etc., (5) approved all technical reports including those of the German scientists, for technical or engineering correctness, as well as the technical intelligence aspects, (6) review and recommend security classification of important documents as requested by the Chief, (7) present talks to various governmental and outside agencies regarding highly technical subjects pertinent to the mission of the Division, (8) other routine and special duties befitting that of a Technical Assistant as requested by both the Chief of the Division and the Chief of the Intelligence Department, such as initiating and monitoring Project "Sign" (Flying Saucers).³⁹

Loedding initially concentrated on a German/Soviet answer to the disc sightings as others did. Perhaps this was because at the time he was working with many of the former Nazi aviation scientists who were then being utilized by Wright Labs under **Operation Paper Clip** such as Dr. Alexander Lippisch. It only made sense to him that the Russians were doing the same thing. As a result, he reasoned, the Soviets may be less hesitant to employ low aspect ratio designs. Loedding and other Intelligence men also wondered if the saucers could represent a highly classified domestic Research and Development project. This, despite the fact that Major General Curtis E. LeMay (onetime Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Research and Development) put in writing in 1947 that the saucer sightings did not represent a secret American R&D project. But, by early 1948 Loedding and some Sign team members would become a supporter of an extraterrestrial *hypothesis* as *one* possible theory for the origin of the reported flying disc phenomena.⁴⁰

Albert Deyarmond is another significant character in our behind the scenes story. Research conducted by historian Wendy Connors indicates Deyarmond may have replaced Loedding as the central man of influence on Project Sign, but not until mid 1948. This could have been a result of the fact that Deyarmond had been a very close friend and wartime companion of Colonel McCoy.

THE MCCOY AND DEYARMOND TEAM

During the war (Lieutenant Colonel) Deyarmond and Colonel McCoy were devoted to their T-2 unit commander, **Colonel Donald L. Putt**. With other officers like Miles Goll, Colonel Jack O'Mara, Colonel Malcolm Seashore, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond S. Sleeper and Colonel Harold

Watson, they all became key figures in the operation to recover secret German technology. After the war, Deyarmond assisted Colonel McCoy in building a technical database at T-2 from German documents. Deyarmond served as McCoy's right-hand man in the Documents Section as Assistant Chief of the Air Documents Research Center.⁴¹

Albert Deyarmond, affectionately nicknamed "Moose" for his large stature, was a MIT graduate in aeronautical engineering. But like all the Sign staff, he was versed in many disciplines. Deyarmond did not officially join the Sign team until May of 1948 because he had taken a job at the Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego from December 1946 to April 1948.

He had left active service at the end of 1946 as a Colonel due to minor health problems but retained his rank as a reserve officer. It is believed McCoy requested Deyarmond's return to active duty to help with the saucer investigation as early as July 1947, but a blood pressure problem prevented it. McCoy, however, finally got Deyarmond back by May 1948 as a civilian employee.⁴²

Again, this seems to show the sense of importance Colonel McCoy put on the disc sightings. Colonel McCoy took his job in Intelligence to heart and for him to devote so much attention to the subject demonstrates that it was just as Ruppelt understood from those days—very serious business.⁴³

No one, outside of a few high ranking officers in the Pentagon, knew what the people in . . . ATIC [T-2/TID] Intelligence were thinking or doing. The memos and correspondence that Project Blue Book inherited from the old UFO projects told the story of the early "flying saucer" era. These memos and pieces of correspondence showed that the UFO situation was considered to be serious, in fact, very serious. The paperwork of that period also indicated the confusion that surrounded the investigation; confusion almost to the point of panic.⁴⁴

Colonel Howard McCoy was a good man to have in place during those tense times. McCoy was a West Pointer from 1930. He also had a solid schooling in aviation but his real call was to engineering. In 1935 he did post-graduate work at the California Institute of Technology and received his M.S. degree in aeronautical engineering. He eventually received a Ph.D. in the field. While at the Guggenheim Aeronautics Laboratory at Cal Tech he studied under the noted **Theodore von Karman who later became chairman of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.** McCoy is most fondly remembered by WPAFB vets for assuming a leading role as Assistant Chief and then Chief of the Propeller Laboratory at Wright Field.⁴⁵ He even acquired the nickname "Mr. Propeller."

Then in July 1944 he was reassigned to the Air Technical Section of the United States Strategic Air Forces Europe where he served as Deputy Director of the Exploitation Division. After coming into intelligence work he quickly earned a reputation as a problem solver. It was at that time he first became involved in preparing plans for the exploitation of German Aircraft. By June 1945, he served under T-2 Intelligence Chief Colonel Donald L. Putt's supervision and from that point on became Director of Air

Documents. Throughout most of 1945, the T-2 documents operation operated out of London, England, but near the end of the year it was decided to bring the whole project home to Wright Field. There, the indexing and dissemination of German technology became the primary responsibility of T-2. On November 18, 1945, McCoy with the help of Al Deyarmond set up the Analysis Division under which all of the Air Documents work was supervised. On December 9, 1946, Colonel McCoy succeeded Colonel Putt as Commander of T-2 as Lieutenant Colonel Miles E. Goll stepped into McCoy's shoes as Chief of the Analysis Division.⁴⁶ By late 1947 much of the work on German technical analysis was complete as T-2 was gearing up for the Cold War.⁴⁷ But since July of 1947, flying saucer reports had remained a constant distraction and retained Colonel McCoy's attention.

This is evident in the transcript of a meeting of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) held on March 17 and 18, 1948. The March 17 session met in Room 3E-869 at the Pentagon from 9:00 A.M. EST to 5:45 P.M. and was presided over by Colonel McCoy's old Cal. Tech. professor and mentor, SAB director Theodore von Karman. During that session, Colonel Robert Taylor III of AFOIN and Colonel McCoy conducted a short briefing entitled "Utilization of Technical Intelligence." An excerpt reads as follows:

. . . We have a new project—SIGN—which may surprise you as a development from the so-called mass hysteria of the past Summer [1947] when we had all the unidentified flying objects or discs. This can't be laughed off. We have over 300 reports which haven't been publicized in the papers from very competent personnel, in many instances—men as capable as Dr. K.D. Wood and practically all Air Force, airline people with broad experience. We are running down every report. I can't even tell you how much we would give to have one of those crash in an area so that we could recover whatever they are.⁴⁸

Another document shows that Colonel McCoy had even recommended that fighter aircraft be maintained on an alert basis to gather information on the disc sightings:

SECRET

**AFOIR-CO5/Lt.Col.Garrett/dk/
4544**

9 March 48

AFOIR-CO-5

17 MAR 1948

SUBJECT: Flying Discs

**TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCI**

- 1. Reference is made to Colonel McCoy's informal proposal that certain fighter aircraft be maintained on a continuous alert status, within the Zone of the Interior, to aid in gathering information on flying Discs.**
- 2. This proposal is considered unfeasible for the following reasons:**

a. The outlay of aircraft and personnel would be too great in relation to the results obtained.

b. Proper interception is not possible, except by accident, without complete radar coverage. The Air Force is incapable of providing such coverage.

c. It is doubtful if fighter aircraft would be able to follow up reports emanating, for the most part, from civilian sources.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

GEORGE C. McDONALD

Major General, USAF

Director of Intelligence,

Office of Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations⁴⁹

References.

¹ *The (Portland) Oregonian*, 30 April 1947; and thanks goes to the help of Dr. David Clarke of Sheffield, England.

² Work under that code name had been underway since January 26th.

³ Alfred Loedding became a handy in-house expert within Intelligence. He consulted on the first disc sightings because he was an authority on low aspect ratio or all-lifting body aircraft and even patented some designs.

⁴ It is generally believed that when a new project within T-2 was approved, that the officers within that organization were allowed to choose a code word. The code word then had to be registered with the Pentagon. An official book or index was consulted in this process which was kept at the Pentagon. It contained all the names of registered code words so no two projects had the same name. In the early days code words were comprised of only one word but by 1952 the rules demanded two word code names.

⁵ Under Collection Branch assistant Lieutenant Colonel George D. Garrett of Air Force Intelligence Headquarters in the Pentagon (and then Alfred Loedding at T-2 Intelligence in Dayton), some files were generated which were marked "SECRET." While almost all of the National Archives' UFO (Project Blue Book) files containing Project Sign documents are marked "RESTRICTED," several pages found through other releases have a "SECRET" designation and some Pentagon files have a "TOP SECRET" classification. Despite what Air Force history states, Sign is recalled by many veterans as being a highly classified operation.

⁶ "Project Saucer," Memorandum to the Press # M26-49, 27 April 1949, Project Blue Book files. (This document can be viewed on Jan Aldrich's Web site Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/projsauc.htm>.) (The acronym UFO was not then used by the media. Flying saucers or discs were the phrases although it seems Alfred Loedding used the term unidentified flying objects in some of his 1947/48 intelligence paperwork. ("UFO" would not actually be popularized until Edward Ruppelt's tenure as the first chief of Project Blue Book in 1952.)

⁷ After some dramatic disc sightings at Muroc Army Air Field on July 7 and 8, 1947, Colonel McCoy's T-2 unit took active interest. However, right after the Arnold sighting in late June, Army Air Force spokesmen had been telling reporters that the saucer sightings would be looked into. On July 2, AMC commander Lieutenant General Twining sent a routing slip about the Arnold case (and some others like the Richard Rankin sighting) to Brigadier General S.R. Brentnall. Brentnall was the Chief of the T-3 Engineering Operations unit and Deputy Commanding General of T-3. That routing slip stated that the AMC should investigate the disc sightings. It is known further that from a July 3 *Boise Statesman* article by Dave Johnson that Twining had started an investigation into the flying discs and invited people to write him. The indication given to Johnson was that T-2 was going to be the AMC outfit which would be analyzing the sightings. Although, recently discovered correspondence by General Brentnall in the T-3 Division indicates that their engineering and research offices may also have been involved to some degree in 1947. It is known since a wave of sightings during the July 4th weekend of 1947, Twining and McCoy in Dayton had been interested. It was probably those nationwide

reports during that July 4th weekend which spurred a meeting at the Pentagon on July 7, 1947. The meeting was held in the office of Intelligence Requirements Chief Brigadier General George F. Schulgen at Army Air Forces Intelligence Headquarters in the Pentagon. Schulgen decided that some incidents should be investigated and witnesses interviewed. It was also decided to ask AMC for any possible explanations they might have. A memorandum for record was written to that effect and cables drafted to Air Materiel Center and Air Defense Command. The cables requesting these interviews were not dispatched until 5:45 p.m. EST on the 9th of July 1947. On July 10, the ADC then involved Fourth Army Intelligence at Hamilton Field because the Arnold and Rankin sightings had occurred in their area of the country. So it seems it was the ADC that led the Fourth Army Air Force CIC officers Captain William Lee Davidson and First Lieutenant Frank Mercer Brown, under Colonel Springer's supervision, to conduct interviews of early witnesses like Kenneth Arnold on July 12.

⁸ E-mail correspondence to Michael Hall from Jan Aldrich, 14 November 2000.

⁹ Reel 111 from a set of microfilm made available by Jan Aldrich and Rod Dyke, which at one time had been in the UFO files of T-2's later successor, the Foreign Technology Division, at WPAFB but were released by Blue Book chief Major Hector Quintanilla to Herbert Strentz for his Ph.D. dissertation titled: "A Survey of Press Coverage of UFOs, 1947-1966."—Northwestern University, 1970.

¹⁰ T-2 was redesignated the Technical Intelligence Department (~~later termed Division~~) in October 1947.

¹¹ In order to understand how the FBI came into the UFO situation it is again necessary to give some background from the year 1947. Air Force Office of Intelligence Requirements Chief Brigadier General Schulgen (who worked for General George McDonald, the head of Army Air Force Intelligence), initiated the use of the FBI on July 9, 1947. Colonel Robert Taylor III, Chief of Collection Branch (AFOIR-CO), worked under Schulgen and was a key influence in utilizing the FBI. Taylor had his own staff and often relied himself on his right-hand man, Lieutenant Colonel George D. Garrett. Lt. Col. Garrett ended up doing a great deal of the early work in 1947 at the Pentagon relating to the disc mystery. Colonel Taylor and Lt. Col. Garrett were the chief liaisons with the FBI. They utilized FBI Special Agent S.W. Reynolds for the first inquiries. Unfortunately, the Bureau initially became very dissatisfied with the roll they were asked to play. They simply wanted to know up front if the reported phenomena were something that actually required the Bureau's expertise because their manpower was limited. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, was always happy to cooperate with the military. In World War Two, in fact, the FBI played a very important role in tracking down Nazi spies and conducting investigative work in connection with the first Japanese Fugo balloon bombs which were found in the Pacific Northwest. But when flying saucers became an issue during the summer of 1947, Hoover saw the roll of the FBI in such matters confined to foreign espionage. In other words, as Loren Gross wrote in his book on the 1947 wave, "if the saucers were not due to Communist agents making false reports, there wasn't much to keep the FBI busy." What really bothered Hoover was that from July 9 through the fall of 1947, he saw the military using the FBI to deal with the cases that involved pure nonsense or misidentification of common objects. Hoover became aware of this at a very early stage and did not want his agents wasting their time investigating cases that involved ash can lids and toilet seats being mistaken for crashed flying saucers. Specifically, Hoover demanded of the Army Air Force that the FBI be made privy to all the evidence available. He wanted the FBI lab to be allowed to inspect some material known to have been collected by AAF CIC officers. Hoover in no way thought that the military had acquired space ships from another world. He simply thought that the Army Air Force had recovered artifacts which might link suspected communist subversives to some of the disc sightings. Or he thought, if nothing else, that the analysis of the materials they had collected could determine one way or another if the FBI even needed to be involved. As a case in point, when Hoover was denied access to materials like those that he knew had been collected at Roswell, he became angry. In other words, the Director knew that the military had acquired some sort of materials during that incident. He may have assumed they were simply the result of hoaxes or misidentified weather balloons or maybe something else unspecified. Hoover only wanted the FBI to analyze this material themselves so they could play a meaningful role—especially if it had a

subversive (communist) connection. Certainly, as history has proved, J. Edgar Hoover was not one to play second fiddle to anyone. It appears, however, that the military mainly wanted the FBI around to utilize their skills in interrogation and doing background checks. So Hoover's suspicions were probably correct. In short, the FBI was just a handy tool to have as a resource. Over the years to come the FBI would occasionally investigate cases but most of their involvement took place between 1947 to 1952.

¹² Personal interviews with numerous T-2/TID veterans who knew Alfred Loedding.

¹³ We all know that during the years in which the Air Force investigated UFOs they were simultaneously intimating that there really wasn't anything to the reported phenomena. The pattern became familiar. Yet, there may have been another government group who initiated that approach. Alfred Loedding of the earliest Air Force UFO project alluded to the Research and Development Board as the culprit. By 1947 the R&DB was an elite group composed of top civilian scientists who advised the president and military chiefs of staff on matters pertaining to national security. Soon they were given the exclusive authority to curb duplication in military research and development among the different services. At the dawn of that brave new age of atomic weapons and sleek jet aircraft, military-related R&D accounted for four cents out of every tax dollar. The board had oversight of those monies for research and funding proposals. So it goes without saying that the R&DB subsequently stepped on some toes as the three services competed for budget appropriations in the lean postwar years. Alfred Loedding was among those disgruntled figures. He was often heard in those days mumbling the phrase "tough sledding, no snow." Loedding characterized their "flying disc" investigation at WPAFB in Dayton, Ohio, as having "tough sledding" from the very beginning. On January 31, 1948, the following article ran in the Pendleton, Oregon, *East Oregonian* which exemplifies the official attitude that his own Intelligence group faced. It was titled "Flying Disc Book Declared Closed." The only problem was that the Air Force's book on the subject had just been ordered open:

Washington—Remember the flying saucers?

Last July [1947] the entire United States was talking about the bewildering phenomenon of the celestial crockery. Dozens of people in 44 states, Canada, Mexico, England, Australia and South Africa solemnly testify that they saw the discs whizzing through the sky.

Military and Government scientific authorities Sunday said that they still have no positive explanation for the flying saucers. The Joint Research and Development Board, the Government's top scientific body, advanced a number of theories informally. A spokesman said the board experts dismiss the flying saucers as a mirage induced by mass self-hypnosis. Theorizing further, the experts contend that it is possible the flying discs were either a form of natural electricity, the sun mirrored in the clouds, reflections of passing airplanes or flashes of light from the silver weather kites sent aloft all over the country by Army Air Forces.

The R&DB may have had reasons for down playing the subject. They might have sponsored the first disinformation campaign, which was not only aimed at the public but the lower echelons of the military as well. They would have justified this in the interests of national security—if indeed they had a secret to protect. Two consultants working for that group did go on record, stating that the R&DB was involved with UFOs. One of these men, Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher, told Canadian scientist Wilbur B. Smith back in 1950 that the subject of UFOs was classified so high that it was above that of the Hydrogen Bomb. Certainly if there ever was a serious consideration of UFOs, it could have taken place in research and development circles. On the other hand, Air Force Intelligence—i.e. Projects Sign, Grudge and Blue Book—which was stuck with a resulting twenty-one year investigation into the sightings, may never have been privy to any upper level information. Of course this assumes that there had been tangible evidence for high levels of government to consider. The R&DB could have been the group to conduct a serious management of the subject of unidentified flying objects.

¹⁴ Loren Gross has written that Dr. Langmuir's studies significantly advanced knowledge of low pressure phenomena, heat transfer, electrical discharges, plasmas and their oscillations, nucleation of ice in clouds, rain formation and other areas of physics. Beginning in 1947, following key discoveries at the GE laboratory in 1946 by Vincent Schaefer and Bernard Vonnegut, Dr. Langmuir and the two scientists conducted intensive

cloud and storm studies in the Socorro area. In 1975, Dr. Langmuir's son Kenneth made a generous bequest to Langmuir Laboratory of funds remaining in the estate of his father.

¹⁵ Thanks to Loren Gross for sharing this quote with the author.

¹⁶ Documents contained in FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, WPAFB, Dayton, Ohio.

¹⁷ The special unsanitized microfilm set so often footnoted in this paper may reflect that first filming effort. It was made available to the author by Jan Aldrich and Rod Dyke, which at one time had been in the UFO files of TID's later successor, the Foreign Technology Division (FTD), at WPAFB. These four microfilms from Project Sign were part of a 32 roll collection that include 1952 newspaper clippings, letters from the public generated by an article in *Life* magazine in that year, and assorted items from the 1960s. It was all released by then Blue Book chief Major Hector Quintanilla to Herbert Strentz for his Ph.D. dissertation titled: "A Survey of Press Coverage of UFOs, 1947-1966."—Northwestern University, 1970.

¹⁸ History Of Air Materiel Command Intelligence, T-2, Historical Study No. 228, Vols. 1-3, Prepared by Doris A. Canham, Historical Office Executive Secretariat, Air Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, August 1948, declassified 23 January 1990, pp. 12-13. (This document courtesy of Rob Young, Historian, National Air Intelligence Center, and Ms. Jean August of the Materiel Air Command History Office, 1999.)

¹⁹ History Channel documentary, aired 3 November 2000.

²⁰ Research conducted by Jan L. Aldrich. (Dr. Lincoln La Paz, who worked on balloon bomb defence during WWII, stated that intelligence authorities had intercepted radio messages between Germany and Japan suggesting a biological attack would come with the next Fugo launches, but the war ended with the American use of two atomic bombs before those attacks could be launched.)

²¹ FOIA request I-NAIC-97-053, Project Sign and Grudge documents 1948-1949, WPAFB, Dayton, Ohio.

²² Analysis was, originally, just one of five departments within TID. The others were Collections, Air Documents, Photographic, and Historical. By 1948 most of those functions were merged into the Analysis Division. TID commander Colonel McCoy oversaw all these men but beyond that he took great personal interest in the Sign project.

²³ Project Sign files which in part are detailed in the National Archives Project Blue Book Files, Project Blue Book Files, National Archives, Records Group 341, Microfilm Pub. No. T-1206, Roll No. 1-9.

²⁴ History Of Air Materiel Command Intelligence, T-2, Historical Study No. 228, Vol. 1, Prepared by Doris A. Canham, Historical Office Executive Secretariat, Air Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, August 1948, declassified 23 January 1990. (This document courtesy of Rob Young, Historian, National Air Intelligence Center, and Ms. Jean August of the Materiel Air Command History Office, 1999.)

²⁵ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999. (Thanks to Mr. Bilek for sharing his extensive collection of personal files on WPAFB and T-2/ATIC/FTD veterans.)

²⁶ Bruce Ashcroft, "Heritage Series, Vol. 1." *FTD, 1917-1967, Fifty Years*, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio: National Air Intelligence Center, 1993. (Great personal thanks goes to Bruce Ashcroft for all his help.)

²⁷ Walter J. Boyne, *Beyond The Wild Blue, A History Of The U.S. Air Force 1947-1997* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997), p. 29.

²⁸ Richard Rhodes, *Dark Sun, Making of the Hydrogen Bomb* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), p. 238.

²⁹ David McCullough, *Truman* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992), pp. 540-550, 562-565.

³⁰ Ibid. pp. 607.

³¹ Ibid.

³² "Statement by Mr. S.C. Britton, Sr., of Dayton, Ohio, regarding sighting of an unidentified aircraft, Monday, 20 October 1947, contained in a roll of microfilm (Reel 111) from a set made available by Jan Aldrich and Rod Dyke, which at one time had been in the UFO files of T-2's later successor, the Foreign Technology Division, at WPAFB but were released by Blue Book chief Major Hector Quintanilla to Herbert Strentz for his

Ph.D. dissertation titled: "A Survey of Press Coverage of UFOs, 1947-1966."—Northwestern University, 1970. (Such a specialized project was a logical outcome of his existing duties which actually fell under a unit within the Analysis Division called Special Projects. Special Projects also dovetailed with the Aeronautical Sciences Office which Alfred Loedding and Nicholas Post set up in 1946.)

³³ Personal interview with Victor H. Bilek by Michael Hall and Wendy Connors, 29, 30 October 1999.

³⁴ Other interviews have alluded to isolated types of UFO incidents being discussed at T-2 before the Kenneth Arnold case in June of 1947. Perhaps Miles Goll was associated with these early incidents too.

³⁵ Personal interview with Col. Rosengarten by Michael Hall at the USAF Museum, 13 March 1999.

³⁶ Personal papers of Alfred Loedding, loaned to the author by Donald Loedding.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Personal interview with Col. Rosengarten by Michael Hall at the USAF Museum, 13 March 1999.

³⁹ Personal papers of Alfred Loedding, loaned to the author by Donald Loedding.

⁴⁰ Loedding's excitement over the disc sightings may have in part stimulated the initial movement to have copies of the Pentagon's UFO files forwarded to T-2 in September of 1947. Beyond that no one will ever know the full influence of Alfred Loedding, but his personal papers do characterize him as the "~~initiator of Project Sign~~." Certainly, it is fair to speculate that he may have been a key figure pushing for the formal establishment of such an investigation which in turn was advocated (via Colonel McCoy) in General Twining's memo of September 23, 1947. Because Loedding was the man being used as a liaison between Washington and Dayton during the late summer and fall of 1947, he had influence. Having talked to Loedding's brother and son, it is the belief of this author that Loedding may have even suggested the code name of Sign. After all, it is known from the writings of Ed Ruppelt and scientific advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek, that the names of the first projects all had a meaning behind them—J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Report* (New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1977/97), p. 5.

⁴¹ Personal papers of Albert Deyarmond provided courtesy of Bruce Deyarmond.

⁴² Ibid. (Albert Deyarmond did far more than just work on Project Sign when he returned to intelligence. Deyarmond held many important and senior positions within the TID organization and did so under its successor, the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC). Most notably, he served as Assistant Deputy for Technical Analysis, Chief of the Requirements Office and then Assistant for Plans and Operations under the Aircraft and Propulsion Section of the Analysis Division. In September 1952 Deyarmond returned to the Ryan Aeronautical Company until March 1957 when he went to work at the General Electric Santa Barbara, California, plant. Like Loedding, he also became involved in related work with NASA before his death in 1981.)

⁴³ Edward J. Ruppelt, *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1956), p. 21.

⁴⁴ Ruppelt's unedited manuscript to *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, courtesy of Professor Swords.

⁴⁵ Wendy A. Connors, *Anatomy of a Project* (unpublished manuscript, 1998).

⁴⁶ Lieutenant Colonel Miles E. Goll was succeeded as Chief of the Analysis Division by Colonel Paul F. Helmick on August 8, 1946, and then Colonel William R. Clingerman assumed the post on January 23, 1947.

⁴⁷ History Of Air Materiel Command Intelligence, T-2, Historical Study No. 228, Vol. 1, Prepared by Doris A. Canham, Historical Office Executive Secretariat, Air Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, August 1948, declassified 23 January 1990. (This document courtesy of Rob Young, Historian, National Air Intelligence Center, and Ms. Jean August of the Materiel Air Command History Office, 1999.)

⁴⁸ "An Excerpt from TAB 6, Utilization of Technical Intelligence, by Colonel Taylor and Colonel McCoy," from a transcript of a meeting of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board on March 17 and 18, 1948, in Room 3E-869 at the Pentagon and presided over by Theodore Von Karman. (This document can be viewed on Jan Aldrich's Web site Project 1947—<http://www.project1947.com/fig/1948back.htm>.)

⁴⁹ Thanks to Jan Aldrich for his research into 1948 era documents relating to UFOs.

(Actually, it was not AFOIN which batted down McCoy's proposal, but the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations. This was also the case when the 4th Army requested fighter assistance during a wave of sightings in 1949 over its nuclear weapons storage facility at Killeen Base, Camp Hood, Texas.)

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THIRD KIND IN ROMANIA

Details from Dan Farças

During the night of July 8 to 9, 1996, in the centre of a village, in Eastern Romania, a police sergeant and a guardian had a close encounter of the III-rd kind. They saw a UFO hovering above the road and three humanoids around it. Some other events seem to be connected with. The case was widely exposed in the Romanian media but it was not thoroughly investigated by UFO specialists being almost unknown abroad.

The case was observed in the village **Cerțești**, district Galați, in South of the Moldavian Region of Romania. Only newspaper and tabloid reporters investigated the CE III in the next days and not UFO professionals, because of the lack of funds and of appropriate UFO research structures in Romania. The TV producer Mihai Bădescu, with a small team, was gone to Cerțești, on August 12, 1996, to make a short film about this event, for TVR1, the main Romanian State TV channel. He invited Călin Turcu and me (both of us having books published in Romanian about the UFO phenomenon) for comments. During that day, we had detailed discussions with the witnesses of this encounter and with other people, including skeptics. The main findings are mentioned bellow.

The police sergeant **Marian Mancu** and **Marcel Rusu**, voluntary guardian, were patrolling on the main road passing the village Cerțești, on July 8 to 9, 1996, at night, in front of the police office. In this place, on both sides, between the road and the sidewalks, there are deep ditches, with small bridges across them. The houses are behind the fences, in the middle of orchards and gardens, except a two-storied apartment house, opposite the police station. The police sergeant lived in one apartment of this building. Around 0.30 AM, Mancu told Rusu that he would go home for ten minutes, to eat something. The entrance is behind the building. The moment the sergeant passed the corner, he heard a whistling sound from the street and sensed a current of air. He turned immediately back, seeing on the road something which "splashed blue and red lights, making a sound like *voom-voom*".

At the first moment the sergeant had the impression that a police car from the district capital Galați arrived in a routine control. Getting closer he realized that the object was hovering half meter above the paving and a small and very strange person is moving around it. He cried "Guard"! As an answer, he observed the horrified guardian, coming half out from the ditch where he was hiding himself, below a bridge. He whispered - "Mister Marian - the Satan!"

Rusu declared later that, immediately after the sergeant disappeared behind the apartment house, "a fluttering from the above appeared..." The neon lighting of the street seemed to change in intensity. The object descended smoothly, without noise, behind him. For a short instant he was convinced too that it was the police car, for a routine control, but, turning,

he became frightened when realized that the object had no contact with the ground and that three small human like creatures are moving around it. As he declared "when I saw how they are, their ugliness, I told myself they are not our own folk. I became afraid and I was hiding myself in the ditch... if something happened... because I have never seen such things in my life..."

As both witnesses agreed, the object had the form of a flat hut, 5-6 meters across and 2-2.5 meters high, and was hovering and balancing 0.5 meters above the ground. Around the edge it had a continuous girdle of light "as a rainbow". The colors: red and blue (or green in other declarations) changed from each other and flared. At the bottom of the object was a bright white light. None of the witnesses saw doors, portholes or other details.

After about two minutes, as they estimated, the UFO rose vertically. At that moment its lights became much brighter, but the neon streetlights went off. When the object reached around 30 meters, it changed direction and turned toward East, with a tremendous speed. The neon light went on after not more than thirty seconds.

The guardian Rusu saw better the humanoid creatures. Sergeant Mancu noticed only one and only from behind. Their height was estimated to be around one meter, maybe less ("as a child of six years"). Rusu said he heard some noises made by them, "as the rain in the drain pipe". Both agreed the creatures gave the impression of "abortion" (in the sense of "unfulfilled" as they mentioned later). The visitors had a big head, very elongated behind, covered with bumps, with no hair, big ears ("as a palm of a man"). Their face was white and they had big eyes. Gray scales with a metallic shining, as the fish scales, covered their body. No one witness remembers shoes. The belly was relatively big and limp. The arms were "not thicker than two fingers". None of the witnesses remembered the nose, the mouth or shoes. The witnesses could not tell for sure if the creatures were walking or flying above the ground, but accepted as more likely the second possibility. Rusu said they moved, "as they were drunk".

The physical traces were weak. A huge sweet cherry tree nearby had around 15% of its leaves affected, as by an extreme heat, on the side where the object was seen. The damage was visible even after one month, when we were on the place. Some people from the village told us that next morning, after the encounter, many leaves and broken limbs were spread on the road on that place. Some others were convinced that was a result of human activity. No other signs were recorded. Nobody measured the radioactivity or took samples.

Sergeant Mancu declared that, after the object disappeared he had to help Rusu to come out of the ditch. The guardian told him that he was sick and he had to sit on the grass for a while before becoming capable of walking. He remained convinced he was seeing Satan. After about a quarter of an hour a tractor was coming on the street, driven by *Nicu Chicoș*. The two asked him if he had seen something. The tractor driver finally admitted that he and another countryman *Emil Bugeac*, of the nearby village *Cârlomănești*, had seen a bright light, with some colored blinking, in the evening before at 10.30 or 11 P.M., three kilometers away from *Cerțești*. But it could be a plane too.

More interesting should be the testimony of the countryman *Gheorghe*

Ghenghea from *Cerțești*. He was watching that night, with his daughter, a song contest on TV. In a certain moment, the image deteriorated, extinguished, restored for a moment, extinguished once again, and after a short while came back without other problems. No other lights were on in the house; so, it could be a short blackout. The witness went out, to ask a neighbor about, but apparently, everybody was sleeping. The color TV appliance was new and he had no problem with it until that moment, or after. The inhabitants told us that some other electrical appliances in the village were disturbed too. We had not the time to verify these allegations.

Another interesting witness was *Ștefan Dumitru Cârje*, from the village *Cotoroia*, 4 km Northeast from *Cerțești*. He woke up, the same night, because of the barking of dogs, at 1.12 PM (he remembered seeing the watch). The backyard was lighted by "very powerful and extended yellow through red light" coming from the high. Going outside, he was not capable to identify any source. "The sky was red and the ground red... it was so bright you could read a newspaper". He told he was 62, he had three years of army with the air force but it was a light he had never seen. The witness controlled the dependencies. "All the animals were up, but not scared. The birds were not croaking or cackling... Only the dogs were barking". After a while he re-entered the house. When he was thinking to wake up his wife and two grandsons, to see the phenomenon, the light became thinner and thinner... easy, easy... maybe it lasted three minutes until that powerful light disappeared and remained the light of the night". He added later: "I saw something as a haze raising up to a certain height and afterwards disappearing slowly in the air".

The witnesses are credible. The police sergeant *Marian Mancu* (30 years) was, for a while, veterinary technician, before graduating a police school. He is married, with two children and he is healthy and sane. The majority of the village population, including the village mayor *Gheorghe Nechifor*, considers him a serious person, not capable of lies or hoaxes. Mancu was interested in the historical events of the region. He led an initiative to build a monument for the heroes of the village, from the two world wars. He had a personal library of several hundreds of books, but nothing about UFOs, paranormal or connected issues. The sergeant told me that even he heard about UFOs, he did not believe in them and was not concerned about.

The guardian *Maricel Rusu* (41 years) graduated six classes, but his education seems lower. He reads little, with difficulty, and only "about some crimes in newspapers". He is not interested in scientific or even parascientific issues. He has never heard almost anything before about the UFO phenomenon. Maricel Rusu is Orthodox Christian but not bigot or even practicing. This explains his first hypothesis, that he met Satan and the fright after this finding. He has no recorded psychic disorders, and he served in the army as sapper. The villagers did not remember he was lying in the past. Even if he drinks sometimes, he has never been seen drunk. Before the close encounter he had his arm badly injured by a horse and he was following a treatment with antibiotics, so he was restrained to drink alcohol.

It is unlikely the witnesses could invent all the very peculiar details and to expose them in such a highly natural and convincing manner. It is also

unlikely that it could be a delusion staged by someone else. Unfortunately we had not other means to certify this impression, e.g. psychological tests, or lie detector, but we did not discover anybody with any motivation to invent such a story.

Not all the villagers gave credit to the witnesses. A mathematics teacher contests the story telling she was awake in this period of time, living in the same apartment house as the sergeant, but she heard and saw nothing. A person said that his "Mercedes" was on the street, and it was confused with a UFO. Another person objected that the place was too narrow for landing, because of the telephone or electrical wires on both sides of the road. This objection was rejected, the distance between the wires being comfortably wider than the dimensions estimated for this UFO. More interesting, the "debunkers" were mainly people that had legal problems with the local police, or people related to them.

On the above premises, we could consider that the Certești case could be qualified as a CE III. But was it more than that? Maybe it was a CE IV; in other terms, was it abduction? A first argument is that, in the following days, sergeant Mancu felt sick and powerless; he supposed he was irradiated. The guardian Rusu had repeated nightmares. As he declares: "I was dreaming on the following days... about how I was hiding myself in the ditch... then I woke up frightened... because they were so ugly".

I questioned both of them about a possible "missing time" period. None of them had such an impression. But when I tried to establish more precisely the time marks, I found that none of them had a watch. The sergeant said "I had not my watch with me... because the bracelet was torn". Rusu had no watch at all.

Trying to establish the succession of the events, we found strange discontinuities. No one of the witnesses remembered to see the humanoids descending from the UFO or re-entering. More than that, the witnesses could not explain how the visitors did that, because no doors or entrances were visible. Maricel Rusu declared, "I did not see which way they descended... They were already turning around". The situation was the same when the UFO was flying up - the creatures simply were no more there, and nobody saw them going up in the object. The same witness declared: "they disappeared, but I didn't take notice what way they disappeared... I don't know where they entered and I did not see them entering... maybe behind..." Sergeant Mancu recognized also that he could not explain how the little men disappeared. His impression was that he observed the small creature only for four-five seconds...

In the literature there are many cases when the witnesses considered they had a CE III only for several seconds or minutes, but after some complementary procedures, for example hypnotic regression, they discover that it was a much longer story and a CE IV. Therefore, we agreed, it would be interesting to use this technique, or something similar, in this case too. Unfortunately, in Romania we face a lack of professionals practicing hypnotic regression or willing to apply it in such situations. Even the travelling expenses to arrange sessions constitute a problem.

Another curiosity discovered in our visit was that the villagers of Certești told us about several other very interesting and quite typical UFO observations, even close encounters, in the last years. They have never

been reported. They would have remained completely unknown if the main event had not happened. I wonder about how many similar situations are in the villages of Romania and of many other countries too.

As a peculiar but not unique sequel, we can mention that, after two years, sergeant Mancu was fired from the police, most probable because he tried to be "hypercorrect" in several cases, even against his chiefs. One argument used was that Mancu is "that guy who sees UFOs"...

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS.

The European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies is the journal of TRUTH [The Totton Researchers of Ufology Theory and History]. The journal has been initially set up to bring the European UFO community closer and is primarily, but not exclusively aimed at these organisations. The journal is objective in nature, allowing an outlet for the broad spectrum of issues related to UFO and Abduction phenomena. This includes all academic based subjects (e.g. astronomy, biology, psychology etc.) as well as spiritual aspects, scepticism and new theoretical issues. Therefore, the European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies wants to publish ufological papers and ideas from a wide range of individuals, organisations and stand points.

Types of papers and articles we are looking for

In reality, there are no papers that we will not consider. However, to help potential contributors, below are broad areas you may wish to write about:

Theoretical issues. These articles may assess the validity of existing theories, expand on existing theories or present new theoretical ideas.

Historical issues. These articles may look at the historical progression of UFO and Abduction phenomena or describe ancient accounts and issues.

Empirical studies. These articles may be a report on primary research and data collection/analysis. Analysis of attitudes towards the UFO and Abduction phenomena may be an avenue of thought for instance.

Methodological and Investigation issues. These articles may assess the methods and investigative techniques that ufology employs. They may also suggest particular methods that could be useful in the field of ufology.

Cultural issues. These articles may look at whether particular aspects of ufology are culturally unique or non-culture bound.

Commentaries. These articles can assess the notions published by authors in the European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies.

Case Studies / Reports of enhanced sightings (e.g. 'flaps'). These articles can give details of interesting cases or 'flaps' which may not have got a wider audience before. These will still be reviewed to ensure that the reports are ethically sound (see the notes on ethics within these submission guidelines).

Authors of papers accepted in the above categories will receive a free copy of the journal that their paper appears in (if a paper has more than one author, the lead author will get the free copy). For articles accepted in the categories below, no free copy will be sent.

Research Noticeboard. This section will allow researchers to communicate with one another in order to collaborate and discuss work. This will be an essential section for ufology researchers. Calls for help with research will be included.

Reviews. Publishers and broadcasting companies may send books and videos for review. This section will give an objective view of the items sent.

Ethical Considerations

For articles that describe research using human participants, ethical guidelines must have been adhered to or the article will be returned without review. Research, therefore, should adhere to the ethical guidelines of the British Psychological Society or the American Psychological Association (or other recognised National Guidelines in your home nation - please supply us with details). Work with individuals who you feel are 'abductees' must also meet the guidelines described in "Ethics Code for Abduction Experience Investigation and Treatment," Journal of UFO Studies, Vol 5 (1994).

Research that is seen as being ethically dubious will not be reviewed or published in this journal. If names are to be mentioned, consent for this in written form must be sent to the Editor along with the article submitted which involves the individuals in question. Pseudonyms can be used as long as it is clear that the name provided is one.

Submission of papers

Papers should be sent to the following address: Craig Roberts, Editor of EJUFOAS, UFO Studies, Totton College, Water Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3ZX, England. Alternatively, authors can submit articles via electronic mail to: ejufaoas@totton.ac.uk

Papers sent via postal mail. Submissions should arrive in triplicate on A4 sized paper. A front sheet should be provided with the title of the paper along with the author(s) address(es) [postal and e-mail if applicable]. Then, the paper will be peer reviewed (blind) by three members of the editorial board.

Papers sent via electronic mail. Two electronic mails have to be sent. One must have the title of the paper along with the author(s) address(es) [postal and e-mail if applicable]. The second must contain the paper along with any images and figures as attachments that are either in text form or Microsoft Word compatible. Then, the paper will be peer reviewed (blind) by three members of the editorial board.

All papers must include a full reference section where authors of papers and books, the title of the book/article, the volume (if applicable) and year of publication are clearly visible. The following style is preferred:

For citing articles.

Hickman, J.C., McConkey III, E.D. and Barrett, M.A. (1995/6) 'Fewer Sightings in the National Press: A Content Analysis of UFO News Coverage in the New York Times, 1947-1995,' Journal of UFO Studies, Vol 6 (new series), p.213-226.

For citing books.

Nagaitis, C. and Mantle, P. (1994) *Without Consent: A Comprehensive Survey of Missing-Time and Abduction Phenomena in the UK*. Ringpull Press Limited, Cheshire, UK.

For citing chapters from books.

Wagstaff, G.F. (1986) 'Hypnosis as Compliance and Belief: A Socio-Cognitive View,' in P.L.N. Naish (ed.) *What is Hypnosis? Current Theories and Research* Open University Press, Milton Keynes, UK, p.59-84.